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Consumer Price Index jumps 1.2%

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Consumer Price Index jumped 1.2 percent in May, as housing prices continued to soar. Rahamim Ozama, head of the Central Bureau of Statistics' price division, estimated that inflation is now running at 14% annually, based on the first five months of the year.

Most economists were caught by surprise, expecting housing prices to moderate in the aftermath of the stock market's slump. They thought that the drop in investors' wealth would curb their appetite for housing.

However, "housing keeps striking back," said Jonathan Katz, head of Economic Modeling and Forecasting.

Housing prices rose 2.3% last month, as apartment prices increased by 2.5% and rents by 1.2%. Housing contributed 40% of the index rise last month.

"We weren't surprised," said Bank Hapoalim's chief economist Pashia Bar-Shavit, who predicted that the index would rise 1% in May. He blamed the increase on the government for failing to move decisively to lower housing prices.

"If people would see a concrete government program to lower housing prices being implemented, they would stop buying apartments now, waiting for the prices to drop," said Bar-Shavit.

He said the marked rise in prices during the past four years have made housing unaffordable to a significant segment of the population. While housing prices shot up 50% during that time, salaries have barely kept up to 1991 levels.

"It will be a problem to adjust wages and housing prices, so that apartments will be affordable to most people," Bar-Shavit concluded.

Nearly everyone agrees that the government's original goal of 8% inflation is now unreachable. Prices have already increased by 5.6% during the past five months and it is unlikely that in the remaining seven months they will rise only 2.4%. Earlier this week, Hapoalim economists adjusted their inflation estimates for the year upwards, to 10.5% from 9.5%.

Katz sees the rise in housing prices filtering down to other items, whose prices are being increased to adjust them to expectations for higher inflation. For example, clothing and footwear prices, which usually closely follow a seasonal pattern, rose 1.5% over the regular seasonal fluctuation.

Katz called on the Bank of Israel and the Treasury to adjust the inflation goal to reflect existing conditions. The central bank has already changed interest rates to reflect higher inflation. However, the "crawling peg" foreign exchange system still has to be adjusted, so that the shekel will devalue more rapidly than previously anticipated and take into account higher inflation.

"This way the Bank of Israel will not have to fight a losing battle against inflation," said Katz.

Bar-Shavit opposed the changes, saying the only successful way to fight inflation is to bring down housing prices significantly. He said the issue is not whether inflation is out of control, but its uneven distribution, as best reflected by the disparity between housing prices surging by 20% a year, while the Producer Price Index is only increasing 7%.

Manufacturers Association labor committee chairman Doron Tamir noted that this large gap hampers industry's competitiveness and limits profitability, as index-linked wages grow faster than the Producer Price Index. He warned that this will slow down economic growth and investments.

"We have already seen the [first quarter] balance sheets of publicly traded companies, which reflected a drop in their operating profits," said Tamir.

The cost of a standard basket of goods and services for the average urban family rose to NIS 5,860, including housing, compared to NIS 5,795 in April. Excluding housing, the basket cost NIS 4,520, compared to NIS 4,485.

May's rise brought the index to 110.4 points on a baseline averaging 100 in 1993, from 109.1 in April.

Knesset passes National Health Law

DAN IZENBERG

HEALTH Minister Ephraim Sneh predicted that the national health insurance law, approved by the Knesset yesterday, would go into effect within four months.

"I hope the National Insurance Institute will be ready to collect the health tax and the Health Ministry will have prepared all the necessary regulations by the beginning of October," an obviously pleased Sneh said, after the Knesset passed the bill in final reading by a vote of 68 to 0, with 27 abstentions.

After the vote, which ended 25 hours of debate, MKs from both sides of the house converged on the architects of the legislation -

Histadrut secretary-general elect Haim Ramon and Amir Peretz, head of the special committee appointed to legislate a national health insurance bill - to congratulate them.

The well-wishers included some of their most bitter adversaries - such as Labor faction chairman Eli Dayan and Yoram Lass - during the year-long battle over the linkage and health fee collection provisions in the law.

Ramon described the passage of the bill as the "biggest, most important and sweetest moment in my political life."

The Likud MKs abstained in the final vote to protest the inclusion of Paragraph 71, making implementation of the national health insurance law contingent on passage of a workers organization tax law.

The Likud faction called for a recess during the voting to decide how to vote on the final reading of the bill after it became clear that an amendment abolishing the paragraph stood no chance of approval.

Yehoshua Matza and Meir Sheetrit were among those urging the Likud to vote for the bill, so that it would not be recorded for posterity that the party had opposed it. Instead, the faction adopted Naomi Blumenthal's suggestion to abstain, after a shouting match among the MKs behind closed doors in the Likud meeting room.

Avraham Herschson was the only Likud MK to vote for the law.

For the third straight day, Ramon and Peretz promised that the health law would not be delayed for a single moment once the NII and the Health Ministry are ready to implement it. Ramon went so far as to make the promise in a handwritten letter to Likud MK Moshe Nissim.

"I wish to inform you that as soon as the Minister of Health announces he has finished preparing the regulations and orders to implement the national health insurance law, [and] says he is ready to implement it, I promise that it will be implemented immediately," wrote Ramon. "I promise to submit to-

gether with you a private member's bill to implement the law without any connection to the workers organization tax."

His promise did not convince Likud MK David Levy, who shattered the monotony of the wearisome marathon debate with a fire-and-brimstone attack on Labor and the Ram Histadrut faction.

"We will not participate in this cheap political game," said Levy. "We protest this social injustice. This law does not bear good tidings. You are turning it into a hostage for your political games."

"Were Ram sincere about his claims, it would have omitted Paragraph 71. Had it done so, we would have united in support of the law. Haim Ramon, you know you will not be able to give up the workers

organization tax because [without it] you won't be able to enjoy the very [Histadrut] bureaucracy you attacked throughout your election campaign. That's your game."

Ministry Director-General Prof. Mordechai Shani appointed working teams for all aspects of the law, including the capitation system (division of health taxes among the health insurers), the basket of services and registration of the insured.

The teams will include representatives of the NII and the Justice, Health and Finance ministries. They will prepare regulations necessary for the implementation of the law, Shani said.

Judy Siegel contributed to this report



Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and Vatican representative Archbishop Andre de Montezemolo shake hands in Jerusalem on the eve of yesterday's establishment of full diplomatic relations. (AP)

Israel, Vatican establish full diplomatic ties

STEVE RODAN

ISRAEL and the Vatican announced an agreement yesterday, establishing full diplomatic relations, with the Catholic Church being allowed to participate in efforts to determine the future of Jerusalem.

"The Holy See and the State of Israel, in accordance with Article 14 of the Fundamental Agreement signed by them on 30 December 1993, agree to establish full diplomatic relations, effective from 15 June 1994, at the level of Apostolic Nunciature on the part of the Holy See, and Embassy on the part of the State of Israel," read a joint protocol signed on Tuesday night in Jerusalem and released at a news conference yesterday. The signatories were Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and the Vatican's Archbishop Andre de Montezemolo.

Rabbi David Rosen, one of the negotiators of the Vatican-Israel agreement, said the agreement was an affirmation of the dramatic improvement in relations between Roman Catholics and Jews.

"It will affect the way Jews are viewed within the Catholic world and the way Jews feel they are viewed within the Catholic world," Rosen said.

In the fundamental agreement signed on December 30, Israel and the Vatican agreed to establish full diplomatic relations within four months after the accord was ratified. At first, Israeli officials said, the Vatican suggested that both countries be represented by emissaries of their governments or

remain apostolic delegate to Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Cyprus.

The Vatican has expressed interest in participating in talks regarding the future of Jerusalem.

"We acknowledge, of course, that there is an interest of the Christians and among them the Catholic Church in speaking about the holy places of Jerusalem," Beilin said at the news conference. "There is an interest by the Holy See to be part of the religious solution for Jerusalem when this issue is on the agenda for the permanent solution."

Beilin said that the secret letter by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres released earlier this month, which implied Israel recognized the PLO's supervision of Moslem and Christian holy places, does not affect the agreement.

Four Iraqis who crossed into Israel within the past few months seeking asylum were yesterday deported to Lebanon, according to reports from the region.

They were taken handcuffed and under armed guard by IDF troops to the Hamra crossing gate on the northern border of the security zone, on the coast, and released.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said four men approached a UN checkpoint manned by Fijian soldiers near the Hamra crossing and identified themselves as Iraqi citizens.

They told the surprised UN troops that they had crossed into Israel seeking asylum, but instead had been imprisoned and then yesterday were dumped at the security zone border and told to walk north.

Goksel said that UNIFIL tried to contact the International Committee of the Red Cross, but found that they knew nothing about the matter. He said that the four were then handed over to representatives of the Lebanese army.

No comment was available last night from the army spokesman or other sources about the incident.

Religious Affairs Ministry must fund non-Orthodox Jewish groups

EVELYN GORDON and HERB KEINON

THE Religious Affairs Ministry will, from now on, give money to non-Orthodox religious groups, under an agreement given the force of a verdict by the High Court of Justice yesterday.

The agreement was reached between the ministry and the Masorti (Conservative) Movement, the Israel Movement for Progressive (Reform) Judaism and Hebrew Union College, which had petitioned the court last year against the ministry's refusal to grant them funding. Justices Aharon Barak, Theodor Orr and Zvi Tal gave the agreement the force of a verdict.

According to the agreement, the ministry will add another category to its list of eligible funding recipients, called simply, "other Jewish religious institutions."

Funding applications will still be judged by existing criteria, it adds, but "in accordance with the changes that follow from the character and ideological path of these

other institutions."

The agreement is retroactive to 1993, when the petitioners submitted their request for ministry funding. The ministry promised to decide on the amount of money to which they are retroactively entitled within 60 days.

"According to the ruling, the Religious Affairs Ministry will be obligated to treat [Orthodox and non-Orthodox institutions] equally," said an exultant Rabbi Uri Regev, head of the Reform Movement's Religious Action Committee.

Regev said the decision was an important step towards full recognition of the Conservative and Reform movements. While it would not immediately create a change in the public's attitudes, he said, it was almost certain to influence the behavior of all government institutions.

"[The agreement] wasn't

reached on the Religious Affairs Ministry's judgment," he explained. "It was reached on the judgment of the Justice Ministry and the attorney-general. That it was impossible to defend a discriminatory policy."

According to Regev, the ministry had refused funding to Hebrew Union College on the grounds that, since it accepted women and included secular studies, it was not a yeshiva. However, it never gave any reason for refusing funding to the other two petitioners, he said.

Regev also said the decision was a victory on the practical level, because it would grant non-Orthodox institutions access to the funds needed to maintain and expand their activities.

A senior source in the Religious Affairs Ministry responded to the court decision yesterday by saying, "I don't know what they [the Reform and Conservative move-

Four Iraqis said deported to Lebanon

DAVID RUDGE

FOUR Iraqis who crossed into Israel within the past few months seeking asylum were yesterday deported to Lebanon, according to reports from the region.

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Israel, Turkey conducted joint air exercise

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAELI Air Force planes conducted their first joint air exercise with the Turkish Air Force last month. IAF Boeing jets practiced air refueling with a variety of Turkish planes, including its F-16 fighters, security sources say.

The air exercise in Turkey last month came as air force chiefs of both countries exchanged visits.

President Ezer Weizman, a former head of the air force, is believed to have also encouraged such a joint exercise during his visit to Ankara earlier this year.

While the joint exercise was organized by the respective air forces, it was formally considered

part of Israel Aircraft Industry's marketing presentation in Turkey.

Earlier this month, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel listed Israel as one of three countries with whom Ankara should improve ties. The other two were Egypt and Saudi Arabia. A Turkish parliamentary delegation visited here this month for the first time.

Ramon's great personal achievement

ANALYSIS

DAN IZENBERG

EVEN Haim Ramon's bitterest enemies cannot deny that the enactment of a national health insurance law separating medical care from politics and abolishing the link between the Histadrut and Kupat Holim Clalit is his personal achievement, and one of historic dimension.

Without his uncanny perception of the political possibilities and willingness to take serious risks, the far-reaching reform in the law would not have come about.

Ramon maneuvered between the political factions in the Knesset like a hiker who tries to cross a stream without getting wet by leaping from one stone to another. He aligned himself alternately with the Likud and Labor as it suited the purposes of his grand scheme.

In March, he did not hesitate to join forces with the Likud to block a government version of the bill preserving the Histadrut's central role in health insurance.

When his brazen act of violating party discipline created a stalemate in the battle over which version of the bill would be approved, Ramon bolted from Labor and formed his own Histadrut list.

After their election victory, Ramon and Amir Peretz resumed efforts to pass the bill. A chastened

Labor Party was now ready to compromise by severing the link between the Histadrut and Kupat Holim Clalit in return for separate legislation guaranteeing continued funding for the Histadrut.

With Labor in Ramon's pocket and a majority for the national health insurance bill assured, the Likud could return to the preferred role of fighting opposition. It rallied against the provision calling for a workers organization tax even though it had supported Ramon's proposal for a similar provision three months earlier, when Labor opposed it.

However, Ramon's maneuvering on the health bill has not ended. During the past three days, Ramon has sown the seeds of his next potential alliance with the Likud by promising to abolish Paragraph 71, linking implementation of the health insurance law to passage of a workers organization tax, if the condition delays enactment of the law by a single day.

By the time he has to make good his promise, if it comes to that, Ramon will be installed as Histadrut secretary-general. It remains to be seen whether he will be willing by then to take a step which would undermine the Histadrut's financial base.

BULLETIN
Some 1,000 Palestinian prisoners are to be released today as part of the Cairo agreement, the IDF Spokesman announced last night at midnight. 118 who were serving life terms will stay in the Jericho area. The remainder will be allowed to return to their homes.

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Thursday July 7	"UNDERGROUND JERUSALEM" Join archaeologist Aren Maeir on a tour of the hidden city, a place where one does not see the sun, the dark mysterious Jerusalem, hidden underground. Included are visits to a Herodian mansion, the Rabbinic Tunnel (Mikhet HaKolel), the Warren Shaft and the Southern Wall excavations. Price NIS 110
Sunday July 10	THREE SETTLEMENTS - THREE STORIES Rosh Pina, Yesud HaMa'alah, Mishmar HaYarden. Return to Zion in a nutshell. Follow the footsteps of Natfali Imbar, composer of HaTikvah, the Orthodox Jews and the Russian Subbotnik converts, who followed their faith and built the country. Lunch. Tour Guide: Historian Arlik Lubovsky. NIS 145.
Thursday July 14	CHOO CHOO TO JLEH In September 1892 a loud whistle was heard in the Holy Land for the first time. The railway had arrived. We'll take the train from Tel Aviv, tour Beit Shemesh archaeological sites and Nahal Kalka, and then go by train from Bar Giora through Wadi Sorek to the capital, and then to Yemin Moshe. Tour guide: Mordechai Sofer. NIS 120.
Wednesday July 27	THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING Some say, "It's music frozen in time." The architecture of public buildings should be a reflection of the society in which it is born. Is it so? We'll also visit The Mormon University, HU Mt. Scopus campus, and the new Jerusalem Town Hall complex. Lunch. Tour guide: Architect David Kroyanker. NIS 130

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ACRI demands panel to review laws on torture

EVELYN GORDON

JUSTICE Minister David Liba'i should immediately establish a committee of experts to examine Israeli legislation on torture and its degree of compliance with international treaties, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) demanded yesterday.

It was responding to a report issued Tuesday by the American group Human Rights Watch, and to a documentary called *The Film That Wasn't* which aired on TV that same night.

The 316-page Human Rights Watch report contained interviews with 36 Palestinians who claimed they were systematically tortured by the army during investigations. The IDF denied the accusations.

The documentary, by Ram Levy, also contained interviews with Palestinians describing being chained to chairs or kept with a sack over their heads, as well as interviews with Israelis — such as an army medic — who confirmed some of the reports.

Attorney Elihu Abram noted in his letter to Liba'i that the ministerial committee on legislation had decided a year ago to set up a committee of experts on the subject of torture, headed by the attorney-general. Since then, however, nothing has been done, he said.

Abram said that while most countries outlaw torture — in Britain, for instance, the maximum sentence for this crime is life in prison — the closest Israeli law comes to even defining torture is a

section of the penal code relating to "pressure on a civil servant, which bears a maximum penalty of three years in jail. There is no mention on the law books of psychological torture, for instance, even though this is outlawed by international treaties, he said.

"Whether we're talking about violations of what is permitted or flaws in the investigation procedures, whether the testimony is exaggerated or exact, it is impossible to ignore this aching problem at the heart of a justice system which proclaims human dignity as a supreme value," Abram said.

Abram admitted that changing the legislation was only a first step. For instance, a 1987 commission headed by former Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau ruled that it was permissible for General Security Service investigators to use "moderate physical pressure" or "nonviolent psychological pressure."

The justification for this, Abram said, is the need to obtain information which could prevent acts of terror. Therefore, even if the law were explicit, GSS investigators might still be able to avoid criminal liability by claiming necessity, he said.

"[Even today,] it's very much a problem of violations, not the law itself," he said. "And the worst [human rights] criminals, such as Chile, have venerable laws on their books outlawing torture. But [laws] can help. They're a declaration of values."

Africa endorses J'lem as Palestinian capital

TUNIS (AP) — The African continent yesterday threw its weight behind Yasser Arafat's quest to set up a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The outright backing for the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman was contained in a final communiqué at the end of a two-day summit meeting of the 53-nation Organization of African Unity.

The communiqué was adopted by consensus after bitter wrangling with Kenya and Cameroon, which sought to remove references to Jerusalem.

Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali led heated behind-the-scenes arguments that finally convinced the two nations to give their consent.

The OAU "calls for a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem," said the final communiqué.

It urged Israel to recognize "Palestinian national rights, including their right to set up their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital."

The alliance, which groups countries as diverse as South Africa

and Libya, called on Israel to disarm settlers and to halt the creation of more Jewish settlements in these territories.

It said Jerusalem is at the core "of the Arab-Israeli conflict," stressing that a permanent settlement in the Middle East was possible only if the controversy over the holy city were resolved.

Salman al-Herh, Arafat's long-time adviser on African affairs who recently has been appointed as the PLO's ambassador in South Africa, said: "This resolution is the most important international diplomatic triumph achieved by the PLO since the signing" of the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord in Washington on September 13.

In a speech at the OAU summit on Monday, Arafat accused Israel of trying to introduce political and demographic changes to impose a "fait accompli" on the issue of Jerusalem before negotiations for its final status get under way.

Such measures, he said, may cause "the failure of the peace implementation most difficult."

'Israel at cutting edge of technology due to Arrow'

STEVE RODAN

THE Arrow missile's successful interception and destruction of an incoming missile has placed Israel at the cutting edge of international technology, a US official said yesterday.

Dr. Michael Holtcamp, the Arrow director from the US Ballistic Missile Development Organization, told Israel Aircraft Industries engineers working on the project that he was pleased the successful test came during the last launch rather than early in the program.

"You learned from the mistakes, and drew conclusions," he said.

Arrow sources said the missile launched Sunday intercepted an incoming missile armed with a dummy chemical warhead. The Arrow exploded and sent shrap-

nel into the incoming missile's cone.

Uzi Rubin, head of the Defense Ministry's anti-missile defense project, said he hoped the successful Arrow test would change the minds of many critics of the Arrow project. He said the launch also impressed those Arab countries building missile arsenals against Israel.

"The successful test was seen not only by the entire people of Israel, but by the policy-makers of neighboring countries," he said.

Ovadia Harari, director of IAT's Malan program, which is developing Arrow, said "in the future, we will have to increase our efforts to advance towards our goal. We have the support of our American colleagues and we appreciate this from the bottom of our hearts."



Palestinian women mourn over the body of gunman returned to the family after being interred in an Israeli military cemetery for five years. The unnamed gunman, one of three Palestinian bodies returned to families, was killed during a gun battle with IDF troops near Hebron in 1989. The bodies were exhumed for reburial at the request of MK Hashem Mahameed (Hadash) and approved by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mahameed is pressing for more bodies of slain gunmen to be reburied in their home villages. (Reuters)

Rabat meeting focuses on development

RABAT (Reuters) — Delegates from 46 countries and international bodies met here yesterday to examine draft plans for regional economic development in the Middle East as part of the peace process.

"This does not have much to do with politics. We are moving into the real world of economic welfare without which there can be no real peace," said a member of the American delegation, led by Daniel Kurtzer, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs.

"We should redouble efforts to include Syria and Lebanon in the talks... The US remains deeply engaged in the peace process."

Kurtzer told the opening session. Most Arab League member states were attending the two-day meeting, except Libya and Iraq who were not invited, a European Union (EU) source said. Syria and Lebanon were also absent.

The meeting is the fifth in a series since the Regional Economic Development Working Group was set up after the Madrid peace conference in November 1991.

The group is to study 35 projects in the Copenhagen Action Plan drafted at the last meeting in the Danish capital.

"We are at a crucial stage. About 17 of the projects are now ready for feasibility studies or sur-

veys. The time has come for action," a Middle East delegate said.

The action plan includes projects in infrastructure, road and rail transport, tourism, civil aviation, agriculture and fisheries to be implemented multilaterally in a general area stretching from the Atlantic to the Gulf.

Examples are tourism parks located between the Red and Dead seas, or in the Eilat-Akaba area with a joint airport, in which adjacent states would participate.

"One of the basic ideas is that the projects will create vested interests in stability, and therefore help to guarantee a lasting peace,"

said an Israeli source.

Israel, which has long had informal relations with Morocco, is represented by a delegation led jointly by Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'acov Frankel.

The meeting, chaired by the EU through Greek ambassador to Tunisia, Constantin Prevedourakis, represents governments and international bodies like the World Bank and UN agencies. The talks are behind closed doors.

It is the first time a session has been held in an Arab country. Previous meetings were in Brussels, Paris, Rome and Copenhagen.

Masorti, Reform movements to get NIS 1m. after ruling

BACKGROUND

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs can be expected to cough up close to NIS 1 million for Israel's Conservative and Reform movements as a result of yesterday's decision by the High Court, and that's just for starters.

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, spokesman for the Masorti (Conservative) Movement, said yesterday that his movement had already requested NIS 870,000 from the ministry's 1993 budget and at the same time, the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (Reform) had asked for NIS 120,000.

An earlier ruling by the court had frozen these sums so that they could not be spent by the ministry until the question of whether the two movements should receive such funding was decided.

Rabbi Uri Reggev, head of the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Committee, said that for his movement, the main immediate benefactor would be Hebrew Union College (HUC), which had

been one of the institutions submitting the petition to the High Court.

In an earlier reply to the petition, the ministry had said that it could not allocate funds to HUC since it had provisions for yeshivot for men and *upaniot* for women, but none for co-educational institutions such as the Reform rabbinical college.

Reggev said that the aid to HUC for the present year should be equal to that given to yeshivot, or NIS 500 per student every month. HUC has some 80 students, from Israel and abroad, thus bringing the total yearly sum to about NIS 180,000.

In addition, he said, the movement would ask for funds for such activities as bar mitzva classes, help for olim, Tora studies, women's groups, youth groups and publica-

tions. It was hard to say exactly how much such aid would amount to, he said, but he had no doubt it would come to hundreds of thousands of shekels a year.

Bandel said that until now his movement had not requested funds for the Jewish Theological Seminary's Israel program or the movement's Israeli school, the Seminary for Jewish Studies.

However, he said, the Masorti institutions would also benefit as a result of HUC's victory and his movement would be applying for subsidies for its student body of over 200.

The Reform Movement has 22 congregations in Israel, in addition to two kibbutzim, a *mitzpe* hilltop settlement, a youth movement, an outreach program, and numerous educational institutions starting with nurs-

ery schools, Reggev said. The movement had a few thousand dues-paying members, he said, with about 15,000 people participating in its various programs.

According to Bandel, the Masorti Movement has congregations in a kibbutz, a *moshav*, a youth movement, and an immigrant absorption program. It also participated in some of the programs of the Tali schools, which have an enhanced Jewish curriculum. He said that about 4,000 families, consisting of some 15,000 individuals, were affiliated with the movement.

In a reaction to the Court's decision, Ministry Director-General Ze'ev Rosenberg said yesterday that it would honor the decision, but that it would not subsidize the non-Orthodox movements from funds designated for "Tora culture and supplementary religious education." Rather, he said, the funds for the "non-Tora institutions" would come under the heading "Support for additional Jewish religious institutions."

Ukraine makes offer for satellites

DAVID MAKOVSKY

UKRAINE has offered to sell Israeli missile-launchers for Israeli satellites, participants in a meeting between Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in Kiev yesterday.

Peres said Israel would consider the offer.

Amid a dispute over the Jewish Agency's aliyah activities in Ukraine, Peres and Ukrainian leaders agreed yesterday to set up cultural centers in each other's countries.

"One of our goals was to smooth over difficulties with the Ukrainian authorities, and I think things will be okay now," an Israeli official with Peres said yesterday. The function of the new center would be more broadly defined to include the perpetuation of

Jewish culture and Hebrew language, in order to circumvent Ukrainian sensitivities about emigration, sources said.

The number of Jews making aliyah from Ukraine has shot up recently due to economic problems there. There are an estimated 500,000 Jews in Ukraine, making it among the largest Jewish population centers in the world.

Peres told reporters yesterday that while antisemitic incidents have occurred in Ukraine, he was convinced that Ukrainian leaders were genuinely trying to combat this phenomenon.

In his talks in Kiev yesterday, Peres's Ukrainian counterpart also suggested that the two coun-

tries establish consulates in Haifa and Odessa. Ukrainian leaders also extended invitations both to President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to visit Kiev.

Bilateral agreements were signed in the areas of investment, taxation, police, science, and culture.

Today Peres will lay a wreath at Babi Yar, near Kiev, where Nazis gassed down some 30,000 Jews in 1941 with the assistance of Ukrainian militiamen, and which became a mass grave for over 100,000, mostly Jews.

Peres, who met Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky during a fund-raising stop in Vienna before arriving in Kiev, returns home later today.

US Senate to monitor Israel-PLO accord

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

FIFTEEN Senators yesterday formed a second congressional body monitoring compliance with the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

The Senate's Peace Accord Monitoring Group will work together with a House of Representatives group that was initiated last month primarily to assure that the PLO complies with its commitments under the Oslo agreement.

Democrat Richard Shelby (Alabama) and Republican Arlen

Specter (Pennsylvania) will chair the bipartisan Senate panel, the senators announced at a Capitol Hill press conference.

The group, which was organized by the Zionist Organization of America, said yesterday it is "concerned" about a recent State Department report on PLO ad-

herence to the agreement.

"The purpose of the Senate and House [groups] will be to provide Congress with information on the status of the accords," Specter said.

Both congressional bodies are mainly concerned that the PLO abide by its commitment to refrain from and condemn terror acts as a condition for US financial assistance. They will issue periodic reports to the administration on those matters.

TA fair promotes regional tourism

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE International Mediterranean Peace Tourism Market lived up to its name yesterday, with the appearance of two Jordanian hotel entrepreneurs seeking business in Israel.

The two are Samir Daqqaq, director of marketing and sales for the Marriott chain in Africa and the Middle East, and Shalib Hussein, sales manager for Marriott in Jordan. The two came to the fair to get a better understanding of tourism companies and entrepreneurs in the region.

The event, taking place at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds, includes participants from Turkey, Cyprus, Malta, China, Egypt, Greece and Romania. The Jordanian visitors insisted they were not official representatives of their country.

Present at the opening this week was Turkish Tourism Minister Dr. Abdulkadir Ates. He said that Israel and Turkey have not yet initiated joint tourism marketing and

publicity because they hoped that all the countries in the area would advertise the region together. He promised that more joint promotion would be seen after next month, when the bylaws of the Eastern Mediterranean Tourism Association are approved by the countries of the region.

Among the exhibitors are a group calling itself the Higher Council of Arab Tourism. They said they were from eastern Jerusalem and had wanted to put "Palestinian Tourism" in their name, but the Tourism Ministry had not allowed them to do so.

Speaking at the opening, Tourism Ministry Director-General Eli Gonen said that despite the Hebron massacre, tourism to Israel during the past five months had increased by 17 percent from Europe and 6 percent from the US, with an overall average increase of 14 percent, compared to the same period last year.

Bid to remove roadblock near capital

DAN IZENBERG

LIKUD MK Limor Livnat yesterday tried to get the government to symbolically annex Ma'aleh Adumim to Jerusalem by abolishing an army roadblock on the highway linking the two cities.

Her verbal duel with Police Minister Moshe Shalom was part of the opposition's ongoing charges that the government plans to compromise with the Palestinians over control of Jerusalem. This time, the issue was the undefined area around the capital known as "greater Jerusalem."

Livnat said the checkpoint served no security purpose and contradicted an alleged declaration by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Ma'aleh Adumim was "part of Jerusalem."

Since the checkpoint has no security value, "it must have political significance by defining the borders of the autonomy," said Livnat.

"At the beginning, the roadblock consisted of one jeep. Then the jeep turned into a jeep and a checkpoint. The checkpoint turned into a temporary roadblock. After that, they put up barriers. Then came the missing are the customs inspectors."

Shalom declined to take the bait, however. "Everyone knows Ma'aleh Adumim is not part of the city of Jerusalem," said Shalom.

Palestinian informers plead for more jobs, protection

DAN IZENBERG

TWO Palestinian informers living in the administered territories yesterday complained that the government was not doing enough to protect and provide for them.

During a Knesset press conference organized by Likud MK David Mena, Mena called on the government to demand the immediate release of 19 informers who have been arrested by Gaza police.

The informers, aged about 30, identified themselves as Mahmoud Ya'acub Diab from Ramallah, and Na'aman Muhammad Shariyeh from Kfar Yamoun.

Diab and Shariyeh said they had already been arrested twice in their lives. Shariyeh lifted his shirt and displayed scars from wounds suffered when masked assailants tortured him by pouring boiling plastic on his stomach.

"They burned my stomach with [melted] plastic, beat me and hit me in the eye with an iron bar," said Shariyeh.

The two Palestinians said they were not protected and called on the government to arm them. They said they wanted to move to Israel with their families and be provided with jobs.

"I feel this way because I did a lot of work for this country," said Diab.

Mena said the government had a "moral obligation to save the lives of Palestinian informers who helped and are helping the Israeli government. The PLO intends to establish military courts to put the informers on trial and this must be prevented immediately. If the government does not help them, they will be defenseless, become more frightened and stop providing information."

On the first *yahrzeit* of our beloved

FRANCES VAINSTEIN ז"ל

we shall meet at the Mount of Olives (top level) on Sunday, June 19, at 4 p.m.

Memorial Service and Prize Distribution from the Zipporah Vainstein Scholarship Fund at Emunah College, 104 Derech Bet Lechem, at 5:30 p.m.

Memorial Lecture: Rabbi Dr. Aaron Adler

Emunah Organization

The Family

אברהם ויצחק

June 16, 1994 The Jerusalem Post
Palestine inform pleads more protection
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Panel: Education in development towns needs improvement

EVELYN GORDON

THE government should cancel the income tax breaks given to residents of development towns, and use the money to improve education in these areas instead, the Knesset finance committee recommended yesterday.

Meanwhile, MK Ron Nahman (Likud) charged yesterday that the educational system in the settlements had been harmed by the Shvies Plan's reclassification of development regions, which removed development town status from most settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Due to the change in status, teachers working there lost extra stipends and paid transportation, he said.

"Most of the teachers don't come from the settlement [where they teach]," explained Nahman's aide, Oz Elad. "They come from outside. So when you take away the transportation, they don't want to come anymore."

Elad said committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) had agreed there was no intention to hurt education, and had promised to ask Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin whether these benefits could be restored.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said in response that he would raise the matter with Rabin.

"There is no reason why pupils in Israel should be hurt because the national priority map has been changed," he said.

Gal and Meir Sheerit (Likud) — with widespread support from the rest of the committee — proposed that in general, all income tax breaks in development towns should be replaced with investment in education, rather than simply being redistributed, as the Shvies Plan would do. The tax benefits, they explained, are useless in attracting people to the periphery of the country.

"[Tax benefits] never achieved their goal," said Sheerit, noting that they are limited to a maximum of NIS 200 a month per person. "It's absurd to think people will move to these towns for NIS 200."

Even worse, Sheerit noted, the tax benefits only help those who earn enough to pay tax to begin with, which is not the majority of development town residents. Only about 50% of the residents actually benefit from the tax breaks, he said, and in some towns, the proportion is as low as 10%.

Sheerit and Gal therefore want the government to use the NIS 300 million it spends each year on the tax breaks for education.

"The only thing that will persuade people to live in these places is if their children can get excellent educations," said Sheerit, suggesting the funds be spent on extra pay to attract good teachers, extra class hours and improved equipment.

The Education Ministry presented the committee with a plan for how it would spend the extra NIS 300m. if it received it. Both Sheerit and Gal said they were pleased that the ministry was dealing with the possibility seriously, even though they did not agree with every detail of the plan.

Gal said that since the current tax breaks for development towns expire at the end of the month, he will convene the committee soon to extend them until September.

By then, he said, he hoped the government would be ready to cancel them totally and implement a version of the Education Ministry's plan instead, as the committee had suggested. Sometime this summer, the committee will also discuss the Education Ministry's plan in detail.

Batsheva Tsour contributed to this report

MDs: Boy should get marrow transplant here

JUDY SIEGEL

A JERUSALEM couple whose three-year-old son has acute leukemia have been criticized by doctors for starting a \$500,000 fundraising campaign to send the child abroad for treatment.

"Every agora spent on sending the boy abroad is a waste of the public's funds," Prof. Shimon Slavin, head of the national bone-marrow transplantation department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, said yesterday.

"The boy's chances of recovery are just as great, and maybe even greater, in Hadassah than in any other center abroad," he said.

Slavin, who said he had studied the case, added that the boy was given "top priority" by his hospital and could undergo the transplant in Jerusalem within a month.

Bone marrow is to be donated by the couple's young daughter, whose marrow is a perfect match. The department has carried out 800 bone-marrow transplants in 14 years.

Shraga and Sheryl Solomon of the Har Nof neighborhood have been appealing for funds to send their son, Yedidya Yosef, for a bone-marrow transplant in a hospital in Seattle or Boston. The child has been under treatment at Shaare Zedek Hospital, but has suffered a relapse.

Friends placed advertisements in *The Jerusalem Post* and other papers on Friday, and in this month's Har Nof community newspaper, claiming that the treatment "must be done in America" and that without it he had little chance of recovery.

Slavin said he was certain that "the boy's disease is routinely treated at Hadassah, with success that does not fall below that of the better marrow-transplant centers around the world."

A senior hospital source added that the Solomon family's appeal for funds "constitutes monetary and moral extortion of the public."

A bone-marrow transplant and all the care it involves would cost the family's health fund NIS 120,000; the family would have to pay nothing, said Slavin. But profit-making centers in the US charge anywhere from \$150,000 to \$500,000 for the same treatment, he said, "with no better results."

Prof. Rina Zaizov, head of pediatric hematology-oncology at the Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva — an expert in the field of children's leukemia who was not involved in the case — said she agreed with Slavin that the child needed a bone-marrow transplant. After hearing details of the case, she supported Slavin's claim that there was "absolutely no reason to send the boy abroad for treatment."

Shraga Solomon told *The Jerusalem Post* that "doctors abroad who know about the level of care in Israel advised us to take him to the US. Hadassah's national center is a small department, and there is pressure to send patients home after a month; in the US, they keep them for two months. We were told that aftercare for

patients with weakened immune systems is better in certain US hospitals."

The couple brought the information they had received to Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, one of the country's leading rabbinical arbiters, who advised them to take Yedidya "wherever there is the best treatment."

Although Auerbach did not consult with Hadassah doctors, he advised going abroad on the basis of the information presented to him.

Sheryl Solomon said she had "wanted to have the transplant done at Hadassah, but foreign doctors I cannot name advised against it. We hate the idea of asking for handouts. We want our child to live and to be able to live with our decision."

Retarded woman who hit policeman freed to wander streets

RAINE MARCUS

A TEL AVIV Magistrates Court judge yesterday unconditionally released a retarded woman who was charged with assaulting a policeman, after no institution would accept her.

Judge Moshe Shamai said he was freeing 27-year-old M.A. "to wander round the country's streets to serve as the Mark of Cain on the forehead of Israeli society."

The woman was originally charged for an offense committed in 1989, and since has been alternately hospitalized in Abarbanel Mental Hospital, incarcerated in the Abu Kabir lock-up and has wandered the streets.

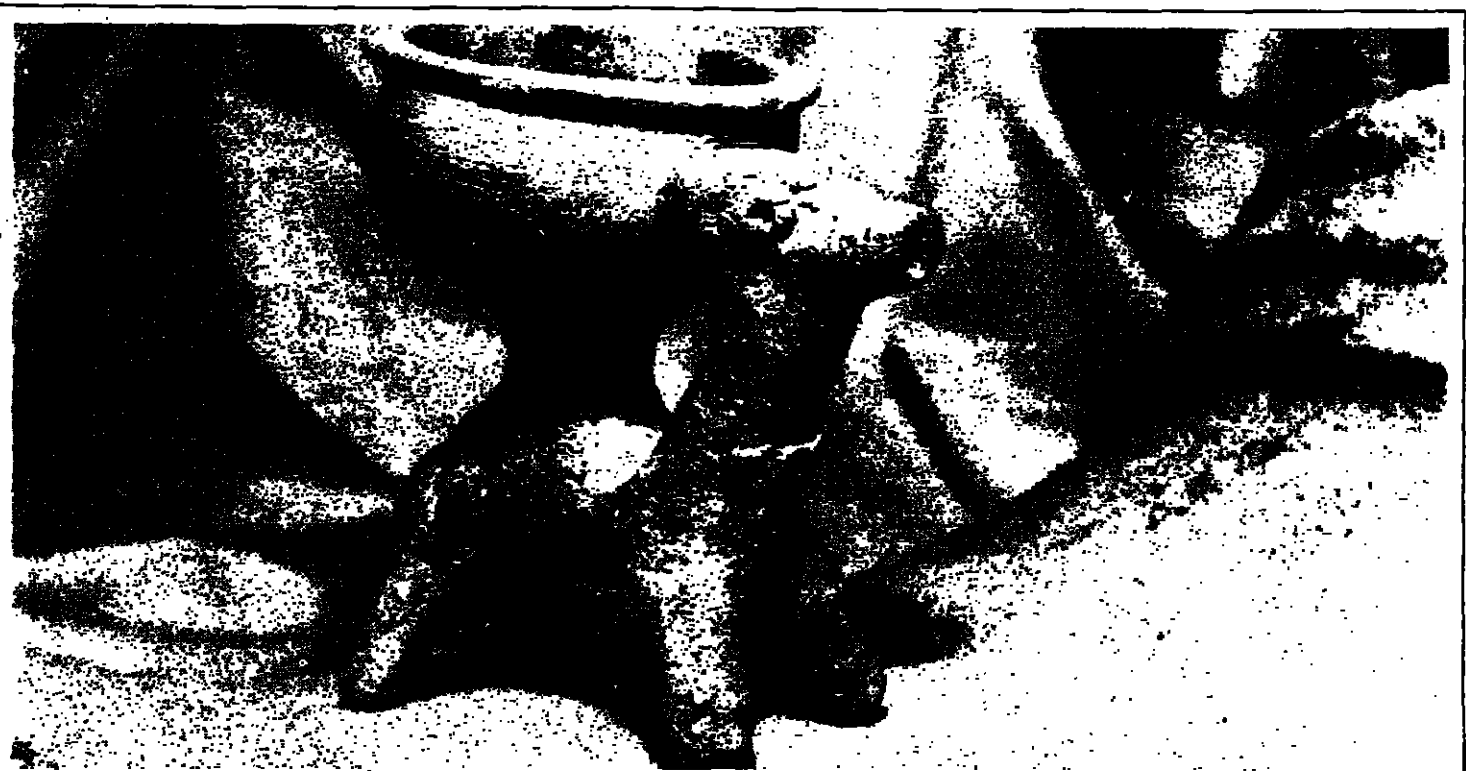
Her parents, residents of Greater Tel Aviv, refuse to allow her back home and although several judges have released her on bail in the past, she has no one to pay the bond.

She was also placed under house arrest but since she has no home, police arrested her while wandering the streets for violating court conditions. Recently she spent three weeks in the Abu Kabir lock-up.

Defense lawyer Maxime Attias told Shamai that the woman "has fallen between two stools" because no institution was prepared to accept her.

"Abarbanel Mental Hospital only treats people with mental disturbances and does not cater to retarded patients," said Attias in court. "And institutions for retarded people are not prepared to treat patients with other mental disturbances. This is a disgrace to Israeli society."

Her trial is scheduled to start in nine months.



This figurine from the 16th century BCE found at Yokneam is one of the archaeological finds from the biblical era — uncovered in digs carried out under the auspices of the Hebrew University — that went on display this week at the university's Institute of Archaeology on Mount Scopus. The exhibit features items never before seen by the public, including Canaanite cuneiform tablets, silver ingots, and wine-filtering utensils. The exhibit opening marks the dedication this week of the Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Biblical Archaeology at the institute. The center conducts Bible-related archaeological research and provides grants to young scholars in the field. The dedication was among the events coinciding with the university Board of Governor's 57th meeting.

Rubinstein mum on 'bagrut' changes

BATSHEVA TSOUR

EDUCATION Minister Amnon Rubinstein yesterday refused to comment on a report that the committee looking into the matriculation exams will recommend the number of tests be cut.

The committee, headed by Professor Miriam Ben-Peretz, will recommend that the number of exams be reduced to eight, according to a report in *Ha'arets*. Six of these will reportedly be compulsory — English, Mathematics, Hebrew, Bible, History and Literature.

The pupils will then have a choice of two additional subjects, the report said. One of these will be an internal school exam.

At present, high school pupils must take matriculation exams in all the above subjects as well as in Civics. In addition, pupils can choose two or three additional subjects in the scientific, technological or social science fields.

They are expected to do a minimum program but can expand most of the subjects if they so wish

and are then given extra points towards their average. The matriculation results are crucial for university entrance alongside the psychometric exams given by the universities.

Under the present system, some of the pupils begin their exams in tenth grade and continue through eleventh and twelfth grades. Most of the examinations fall at the end of the last year of school and continue into the summer vacation.

Rubinstein has gone on record as favoring a system that would cut the heavy load on high school pupils.

The Ben-Peretz committee, set up by the Education Ministry, began its deliberations a year and a half ago. There are believed to be strong differences of opinions among its members.

"When the committee completes its deliberations and presents its recommendations, in about two weeks, the minister will comment," his spokesman said yesterday.

Roman-era complex found near Banyas

DAVID RUDGE

ARCHEOLOGISTS have uncovered the well-preserved remains of what is believed to have been a large medical center and recreation complex from the Roman period near the Banyas springs on the Golan.

The complex, covering a large tract of land approximately 22,500 square meters, is the biggest of its kind ever to have been found here.

The Antiquities Authority spokeswoman said it was believed that the complex was used by Roman soldiers who helped put down the Jewish revolt and were involved in the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

Prof. Vasilios Tsafiridis, who led the excavations at the site on behalf of the authority, said it was perhaps one of the greatest finds of its type — in terms of size and the well-preserved state of buildings — anywhere in the world.

He told reporters at a press conference at the site yesterday that the excavations had uncovered several buildings with yards and a network of underground passages, some of them

as big as roads, halls with marble floors and public baths.

Tsafiridis said the state of preservation was astonishing. "We have found remains of the upper floors of some buildings and there are some places which go down to a depth of five meters," he said.

"We haven't yet begun an in-depth study, but it appears that this was used as a large medical center, incorporating all the health services, and some recreational facilities, such as a small theater (odeon)."

"The building dates back to the first century CE and it can therefore be connected to the period of King Agrippa II."

According to the famous historian Josephus Flavius (Yosef Ben-Matityahu), Agrippa II, who ruled the northern region, invited Roman soldiers to relax and enjoy themselves at the Banyas site after the destruction of the Temple

in 70 CE.

The more than 50 student volunteers from five US universities who carried out the excavations under the supervision of Tsafiridis also found tunnels under the complex, the longest measuring 30 meters, as well as the "cardo," the main street through the city.

The Banyas site itself dates back to the Hellenistic period, but really came into its own during the Roman era when it became the capital and recreation center of the north because of the springs, the cooler weather and the recreational facilities.

It continued to bloom during the Byzantine period and remained occupied through the Moslem era until around the 8th century CE.

The excavations at the site are now in their seventh season. Tsafiridis said it would probably take another three or four years to uncover all of the newly discovered Roman complex and even longer to open it to the public, unless the government decided to aid the project financially.

Hikers urged to avoid Western Galilee canyon

LIAT COLLINS

THE Nature Reserves Authority is warning hikers to stay away from the Beit Hakerem (Shagur) Canyon in western Galilee because of the strong flow of sewage into the wadi.

The sewage, from the town of Dir El-Assad, next to Karmiel, has been pouring into the wadi for a few days, said NRA spokeswoman Dina Weinstein.

Following an order issued by the Environment Ministry a few months ago, the local council dug a pond as a temporary solution to the sewage collection problem, and to stop the flow into the nature reserve.

"A temporary solution by its very nature is good only for a limited period of time. And the sewage has started overflowing again, via the Acre-Safed road, back into the canyon," Weinstein said.

She blamed the source of the problem on the fact that the local council had not connected the town's sewage system to the main regional system.

NRA warden Yossi Friedman has asked the Environment Ministry and local environmental towns' union to do something about it.

Dir El-Assad city officials could not be reached for comment.

Threat of US sanction against El Al lifted

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE threat of US sanctions against El Al was apparently removed yesterday after a senior official of World Airways told Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar that the airline had no intention of flying here in the near future.

Following the Civil Aviation Administration's repeated refusal to agree to World's request to fly to Tel Aviv three times a week, US Secretary of Transport Federico Pena had threatened to ban three of El Al's 20 weekly flights to the US. At present, three American air companies, TWA, Tower, and Delta fly between the two countries.

Yesterday Vance Fort, vice president of World, visited Israel to officially inform Kessar that the company had reconsidered and was not, at present, interested in

flying to Israel. Fort told Kessar that World saw no reason to increase the capacity or add another carrier on the Tel Aviv-New York route at the present.

However, Fort did say that World intended to inaugurate three weekly flights to Tel Aviv in March 1995. He added that the company would charge reasonable fares, in keeping with those of the other airlines on the same route. He also said World intended to inform the US authorities of its decision, to prevent the levying of sanctions on El Al.

Kessar, who is due to go to the US at the end of this month to meet with Pena, said yesterday he intended to continue to protect El Al's interests, to ensure it would continue to be profitable while most airlines are suffering losses.

Nests of green turtles found in North

LIAT COLLINS

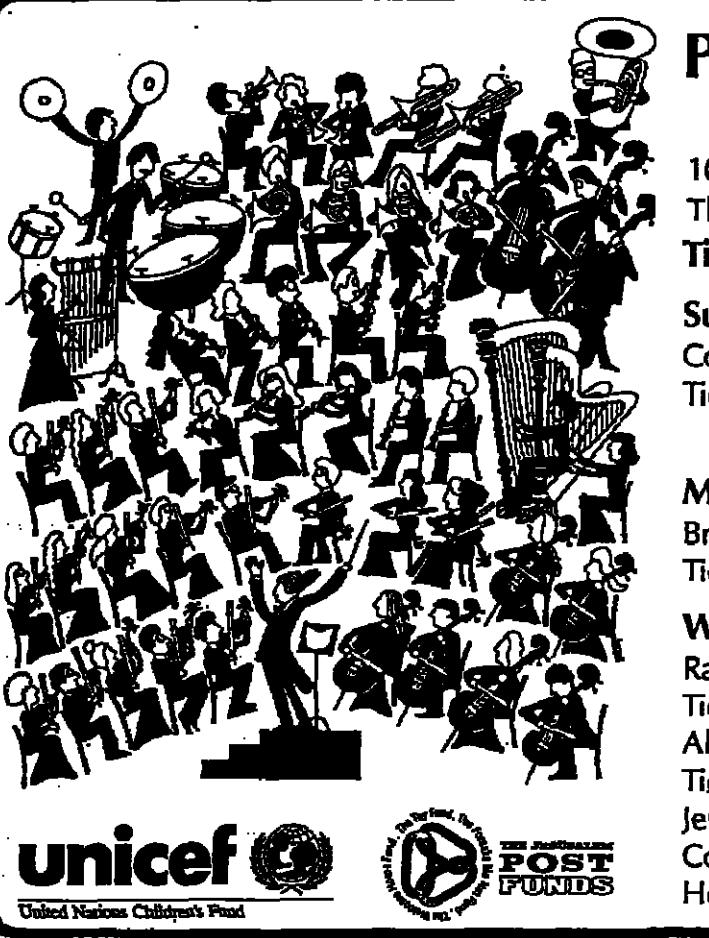
For the first time in a decade, nests of green turtles have been found at the Haborim Beach, north of Zichron Ya'acov, by Nature Reserves Authority wardens.

The NRA, which is conducting a survey of turtle nests, found two at the Haborim Beach and one at Megadim, north of Atlit, NRA spokeswoman Dina Weinstein said. "The discovery of the green turtle nest is causing extra excitement as the species is considered virtually extinct," she said. The wardens identified the

green turtle by the tracks the female leaves in the sand when she comes to the beach to lay her eggs. The tracks are slightly different from those of the common brown turtle, and the eggs are larger.

Some 115 eggs were discovered in the green turtle's nest.

The three nests have been removed to a fenced-off artificial nest in a reserve, to protect them from natural predators. NRA wardens will guard the eggs until the turtles hatch and safely reach the sea.



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Monday, July 11, YMCA Hall, Jerusalem

Brahms, Smetana, Bernstein, Avni, Kaufman

Tickets: AACI, 6 Mane St., Jerusalem, (9 a.m.-noon), Tel. 02-619252

Wednesday, July 13, Noga Theater, Tel Aviv-Jaffa

Rachmaninoff, Copland, Avni, Kaufman

Tickets: AACI, 22 Mazeh St., Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-299799

All concerts commence at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets for July 11 and 13 concerts also from The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem, or 10 Harav Kook, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-233986, Fax 02-241212.

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Clinton welfare reform would force recipients to accept jobs

ELIZABETH SHOGREN
KANSAS CITY, Mo.

DECYING the "cycle of dependency" that keeps millions of Americans on welfare rolls for years, President Clinton on Tuesday unveiled a \$9.3 billion reform initiative that would impose a two-year limit on cash benefits and require younger recipients to find work themselves or take a government job.

"We propose to offer people on welfare a simple contract," Clinton said during an address in the lobby of a Kansas City bank where Harry Truman once worked and where former welfare recipients have become productive wage-earners.

"We will help you get the skills you need," Clinton said. "But after two years, anyone who can go to work must go to work, in the private sector, if possible, in a subsidized job, if necessary. But work is preferable to welfare, and it must be enforced."

If his package is enacted, the president said, one million people who would otherwise be unemployed and receiving welfare benefits will be holding jobs by the year 2000. That would represent roughly one in five of all adults who now receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children. Clinton's plan applies only to AFDC, and not to Food Stamps or other programs for the needy.

The initiative is designed to flesh out Clinton's campaign promise to "end welfare as we know it" by addressing some of the factors that tend to make public assistance more attractive than gainful employment to recipients, particularly single mothers.

Welfare reform is considered a central element of Clinton's "New Democrat" agenda, which attempts to find common ground between traditional liberal and conservative approaches to social policy.

Work, "the president declared in the lobby of Commerce Bank.

"is the best social program our country has ever devised."

Under the Clinton plan, public sector jobs would be provided to participants who hit the two-year time limit without finding work in the private sector. Commerce Bank, for example, is active in a city program that trains and places Missouri welfare recipients in private jobs.

Clinton said his plan makes it clear that both parents will be held responsible for the welfare of their children. It would emphasize establishment of paternity, and crack down on fathers who fail to provide mandated child support. It includes measures to discourage teen pregnancy and illegitimacy, which Clinton says have contributed to welfare dependency.

"Children should not be born until parents are married and fully capable of taking care of them," the president said.

The president said he would introduce his legislation in the next few days. It already faces competition from several congressional proposals that represent different visions of welfare reform. Liberals tend to oppose the proposed time limit as too severe, while conservatives argue that the Clinton plan does not do enough to discourage illegitimacy.

In unveiling his proposal, Clinton stressed that it must be accompanied by health care reform. Without universal health coverage, he said, welfare recipients will continue to be faced with an unacceptable trade-off: If they leave welfare for a low-wage job, they probably will have to give up the medical coverage the government provides them and their children.

The plan calls for no tax increases to finance welfare reform.

Instead, the president proposed to offset its costs largely through reductions in entitlement programs targeted at the poor.

Los Angeles Times



Young Baptists put 'True Love Waits' cards into the ground outside the Orange County Convention Center yesterday, during the first day of the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Florida. (AP)

No sex please: 100,000 Southern Baptist teenagers pledge chastity till marriage

Mass vow to take center stage at Baptist convention

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - In a wondrous display of chastity, more than 100,000 Southern Baptist youngsters are pledging to abstain from sex until marriage.

They plan to repeat that vow in a stadium-sized display before the 137th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, which begins here Tuesday.

Since its humble beginning little more than a year ago, when 59 teens took vows of chastity in a Nashville church, the "True Love Waits" campaign has inspired more than 100,000 youths in the nation's largest Protestant denomination to pledge to abstain from sex before marriage.

Risking the ridicule of their

peers, teens say abstinence is an opportunity for redemption in a culture that often seems to expect them to give their libidos free rein.

"It gives other youths a place to look at and say, 'We're not so odd. Look, there's 100,000 other people that are not having sex,'" said Rob Ladd, 18, of Nashville.

"Even if five of my friends are having sex, I don't have to."

What has captured the imagination of these teens is the opportunity to "get in the face" of the free-love generation that expects them to be promiscuous, said the Rev. Richard Ross, who started it all.

"Teenagers like going against the flow," he said. "Teen-agers...

like surprising adults and not fitting in with adult expectations."

"There's some of us out here who do stand up for things and are pretty good people," said Lucy Gama, 17, also of Nashville.

The first group made their chastity pledges in Ross' Tulip Grove Baptist Church in Nashville. The idea spread and pledge cards started stacking up.

Three hundred teens from inner-city Houston churches signed on at a rally. At a summer camp in Oklahoma, more than 13,500 teens took the pledge.

At some rallies, more than 10,000 young people at a time pledged "to God, myself, my family, those I date, my future mate

and my future children to be sexually pure until the day I enter a covenant marriage relationship."

Other major church organizations looking for ways to promote traditional morality also signed on. About 26 groups, from the Roman Catholic Church and Assemblies of God to Campus Crusade for Christ and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, have joined the campaign.

The Baptist World Alliance, which includes 165 groups representing 38 million Baptists in 150 countries, recently decided to join. That paved the way for a planned 1995 chastity rally in Argentina.

Bobby who slapped teen gains huge support in UK

WHEN Police Constable Steve Guscott caught up with a sassy teenager who had been harassing an old lady on his beat, he did what he would have done to one of his own two sons - he slapped him.

But the teenager charged the 42-year-old officer with assault and now Guscott, who has 20 years of unblemished service, must pay £150 (£225) and may lose his job.

Guscott has become a hero to many English people who are disturbed about rising crime and long for a bit of old-fashioned discipline.

"It used to be if you had a run-in with a policeman he would box you around the ears and you would go home crying and tell your dad about it and he'd give you another one," said Kevin Escott, a friend of the officer.

Guscott's boss, Avon and Somerset District commander Superintendent Mike Nelson, said police switchboards had been

"totally overwhelmed" Tuesday by calls of support for the officer, who is based in Minehead, 225 kilometers west of London.

"It does show there is a wind of change within society that perhaps indicates that the pendulum has swung too far and it may be time to redress that balance," said Nelson, who will be a character witness for Guscott at his disciplinary hearing in July.

At Bridgwater magistrates' court on Monday, Guscott pleaded guilty to common assault on a 14-year-old boy. He was ordered to pay a £100-pound (£150) fine and £50 (£75) compensation to the teenager.

The prosecution said Guscott, who had been called to investigate a report of youths repeatedly banging on an old woman's door, struck the teenager twice - once on the nose with his elbow and once with an open-handed slap.

Guscott admitted the slap but denied the elbow. His lawyer, Ian Wilson, said the slap was "no more and no less than he would do with his own son if he had behaved in a similar manner."

Escott, who has known Guscott for nine years as a fellow volunteer on emergency lifeboats, described the officer as an "honest, straightforward family man."

After the March incident, Guscott explained the case at a lifeboat practice meeting, Escott said in a telephone interview.

"The individual is well known locally as a bit of a tearaway. [Guscott] has got our full support. It would have been easy for him to say 'No, I didn't do it.' But he's not that sort of bloke."

The Wandering Jew in Bloomsday's fair city

THOMAS O'DWYER

Stuart Gilbert wrote in his classic study of *Ulysses*: "It is the story of a day in the life of a Dubliner undistinguished by any particular virtue or vice, a kind-hearted, moderately educated, mildly sensual, not even really vulgar, small-business man, who in the course of a day comes across a number of foul-mouthed persons whose tongues have been loosened by drink, generally in public houses whether his business or a need for refreshment has taken him."

Ulysses is not as difficult a book as many people believe - certainly nowhere near as inaccessible as its sequel, *Finnegans Wake*. A little knowledge of its structure sweeps away much of the difficulty.

The real star of the book is the language: *Ulysses* contains examples of almost every known dialect and patois in English - Irish ones predominant of course. This is its Homeric legacy, its creation for the English language of the extraordinary range of Greek literary and oral forms with which Homer built his mighty *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

The book is in 18 chapters - or rather, episodes - each corresponding in multiple allusions to an episode in Homer's *Odyssey*. The poem of Homer is the work of an exiled Greek, its incidents the reports of a Semitic traveler, *Ulysses*, who was a seafaring Phoenician. *Ulysses* is the work of an Irish exile, its episodes exist in the detailed memory of a Semitic traveler, the wandering Jew, Bloom.

The first three chapters are an overture to Bloom's day and log the doings of Joyce's alter ego, Stephen Dedalus, the prissy young hero from *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. The psychological link between Dedalus and Bloom, poles apart in personality, is an extraordinary thread running through the novel. It opens in that disused Martello tower on Dublin Bay where the modern Bloomsday pilgrims gather.

The next twelve chapters follow the day of Bloom, who sells advertising for a Dublin newspaper. His attention to his friends and

job is distracted by reminders of an interview his wife Molly, a singer, is to have with a Dublin impresario at 4 p.m. - an interview which he (correctly) assumes will climax in an act of adultery. The day ends when Bloom meets Dedalus and, under the influence of drink, they experience a wild night of hallucination - an extraordinary Walpurgisnacht - in Nighttown, the red light district.

The last three chapters describe Bloom's return home to Molly (like *Ulysses* to Penelope) in Stephen's company. The last chapter, titled Penelope, is the most amazing journey through the mind of a woman that exists in English literature - a long, unpunctuated monologue of female fantasy and disillusion. Arnold Bennett wrote in awe: "I have never read anything to surpass it. I doubt if I shall ever read anything to equal it." Stuart Gilbert said: "*Ulysses* ends with amazement."

For Jews and Israelis, *Ulysses* is a treasure trove of Hebrew, Jewish and Zionist references:

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- "Tora, Talmud (Mishna and Gemara), Massora, Pentateuch, Book of the Dna Cow, Book of Ballymore, Garland of Howth, Book of Kells."
- Zionism: Bloom dreams of a pioneering new life - "The model farm at Kinnereth on the lakeshore of Tiberias. Can become ideal sanatorium. Moses Montefiore. I though he was Farmhouse, wall around it, blurred cattle cropping... Agudath Netayim: planter's company. To purchase vast sandy tracts from Turkish government and plant with eucalyptus trees."
- Judaism: Bloom rous a Catholic antisemite who has insulted him - "Three cheers



James Joyce

for Israel... Mendelssohn was a Jew and Karl Marx and Mercadante and Spinoza. And the Savior was a Jew and his father was a Jew. Your God."

"Whose God?" says the citizen. "Well, his uncle was a Jew," says [Bloom]. "Your God was a Jew. Christ was Jew. Like me."

Leopold Bloom walked the streets of Dublin before either the Jews or the Irish were free. He would be proud of Ireland and Israel today. As proud as they are of him.

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DICTIONARY OF MEDICAL & HEALTH TERMINOLOGY

UN: Rwandan refugees abducted, presumed killed

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) - Nearly 100 Rwandan refugees who fled to Burundi were abducted and presumably killed by unidentified assailants, a United Nations official said yesterday.

Tensions are running high between the Hutu majority and the Tutsi minority in Burundi, and many fear an outburst of violence similar to the slaughter in Rwanda, where the same two ethnic groups are locked in a savage war.

Shelly Pitterman, head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees office in Burundi, said his workers had located a group of 500 newly arrived Hutu refugees Saturday in northeast Burundi at a place called Kiri.

When the UNHCR returned with trucks to pick up the refugees a day later, many of the Hutus were missing. Witnesses told UN workers the people had been abducted and were presumably killed by the kidnappers.

"We have a list of 91 names of people who are missing and are presumed dead," Pitterman said by telephone from Burundi's capital, Bujumbura.

The Hutu-Tutsi rivalry in both Rwanda and Burundi has led to repeated blood baths since both countries gained independence from Belgium in 1962.

Pitterman and government officials Monday went to Kiri and found a number of freshly dug graves. They think the kidnappers may have been killed and buried at the site.

"The matter has been turned over to the [Burundi] authorities for criminal investigations," Pitterman said.

Pitterman said some 78,000 Rwandans, mostly Tutsis, have sought refuge in Burundi to escape fighting in Rwanda that has claimed an estimated 200,000 lives since April.

Burundi's most recent slaughter began October 21 when soldiers killed the nation's first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, in a failed coup five months after his election.

The next day, Hutus in the countryside began massacring Tutsi civilians in revenge, according to aid workers and diplomats. The Tutsi army then went into those areas and killed Hutus.

Before it was over, an estimated 100,000 people were dead and 700,000 - one in eight of the population - had fled to neighboring Tanzania, Zaire and Rwanda. Many of the refugees who fled to Rwanda have returned to Burundi since April.

Carter arrives in Pyongyang, urges friendship with US

SEOUL (Reuters) - Former US president Jimmy Carter arrived in Pyongyang yesterday to try to defuse the threat of war prompted by a defiant North Korea's suspected nuclear arms program.

He was quoted by North Korea's official news agency as saying "The time has come to establish full friendship" between Pyongyang and Washington.

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, said Carter told a reception hosted by North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam that the United States "is ready to meet you in accomplishing these goals."

"I believe that as soon as the nuclear issue is resolved clearly and the misunderstandings are removed we can make progress for the other goals," KCNA quoted Carter as saying.

The North Korean foreign minister said he hoped Carter's visit would help "in turning the distrust and hostility... between the two countries into relations of friendship and amity and mutual respect by degrees."

Former president Carter, accompanied by his wife, Rosalynn, three advisers and six armed Secret Service agents, crossed the border into the North at the truce village of Panmunjom on the tense frontier with rival South Korea.

He is due to meet North Korean President Kim Il-sung before returning to the South on Saturday.

A mere 40 kilometers south of Panmunjom in Seoul, civil defense sirens wailed, all traffic was stopped, and people ordered into underground shelters during a 20-minute afternoon exercise which included anti-biological and chemical warfare and air raid drills.

Earlier in the day, South Korea's defense minister, Rhee Byoung-tae, warned that North Korea had completed preparations for war.

"The government has drawn up a strategy under which instant and strong retaliation will be carried out to counter any abrupt North Korean military provocation," Rhee was quoted as saying.

North Korea declared on Monday it was withdrawing from the United Nations nuclear watchdog group, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), rather than submit to further checks.

World leaders, united in expressing alarm at the decision, which may have brought closer a feared UN Security Council decision to impose sanctions against



Former US president Jimmy Carter salutes US servicemen on the military demarcation line on the North Korean side of the Panmunjom Truce Village yesterday. Carter then crossed into North Korea to visit President Kim Il-sung. (Reuters)

Pyongyang

In Washington, President Clinton said the United States would pursue a "very deliberate, very firm" policy towards North Korea but held out an olive branch if Pyongyang agrees to abide by nuclear safeguards.

Speaking to reporters at the

start of a meeting with Republican and Democratic congressional leaders, Clinton said he hoped Carter's mission to the isolated Stalinist state would bring the situation into clearer focus.

China, repeating calls for calm negotiations, said yesterday it deplored the deterioration in the

situation.

The Chinese government appealed here today to all the parties concerned to be cool-headed, make every effort for an earlier resumption of dialogue and avoid further deterioration of the situation," the official Xinhua news agency said.

Angolan rebel forces advancing on Kuito

LUANDA, Angola (AP) - Rebel artillery fell silent after battering the central town of Kuito yesterday, an ominous sign for panned-in government soldiers who found themselves battling the rebels hand-to-hand on the outskirts of the besieged city.

A government military official said things looked "desperate" for troops trying to prevent UNITA guerrillas from breaking through and overrunning Angola's third-largest city.

A hail of rebel artillery had left Kuito in flames and untended wounded lying in the streets, while hand-to-hand battles had broken out from three fronts, said the military official on condition of anonymity.

There was no updated report on casualties after an Angolan National radio correspondent estimated in his morning broadcast from the city that some 50 civilians had been killed by artillery fire since the weekend.

For rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, whose birthplace is near the central highlands city, capturing Kuito would be an enormous symbolic as well as strategic victory.

The region is home to the Savimbi's Ovimbundu people, the main supporters of his rebel movement. After rebel forces last year captured Huambo - Angola's second-largest city - and made it their base, Savimbi moved his heaviest artillery and thousands of troops 130 kilometers northeast to Kuito in a bid to knock out its strategic airport and army base.

The rebel push for Kuito came as government and rebel negotiators in Lusaka, Zambia, were reportedly making rapid progress toward a settlement to end the war, which has raged since 1975.

A treaty in 1992 produced 18 months of peace. But after Savimbi accused the government of rigging UNITA's defeat in the September 1992 elections, war resumed and the rebels seized control of more than half the country.

Fighting yesterday was also reported on six other fronts in the war-torn southern African nation, one of them a critical oil enclave where the UNITA rebels have reportedly formed an alliance with another guerrilla group.

According to a military official, UNITA forces had linked up with guerrillas of the Cabinda Liberation Front/Armed Forces of Cabinda (FLEC/FAC) and attacked government positions in the northern Cabinda enclave.

Southern women join up for Yemen war

ADEN (Reuters) - Hundreds of southern Yemeni women volunteered for military duty as renewed fighting yesterday ended a brief respite in the battlefronts north of the secessionist stronghold of Aden.

The women wanted to help southern forces fight back an advance by northern troops on the port city, an official said.

"There was no official call for mobilization of females. Hundreds just volunteered in the past 48 hours," he told Reuters.

Several gun-toting women, some wearing Islamic veils, manned checkpoints in Aden. Others had been sent to different fronts around the city, which has been surrounded by northern forces for more than 10 days.

The authorities in Aden armed thousands of civilians when the civil war erupted. Many women had received military training in the old South Yemen.

"After the union women re-

laxed but now they have warmed up again. They are saying the whole city is willing to fight for its independence," the official said.

War broke out on May 4 when an uneasy four-year union between the former North and South Yemens finally collapsed. The south seceded on May 21 but northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh insists he will crush what he views as a rebel movement.

Aden residents heard sporadic fighting in the distance late yesterday afternoon and southern warplanes flew out of the city's airbase at a rate of two an hour.

Officials say at least 13 civilians had died in heavy northern shelling of Aden on Monday and Tuesday. Attacks in and around Aden's approaches had eased late on Tuesday night.

Several cease-fire calls in the war have been ignored by the rival armies. But signs emerged over the past 24 hours of a possible breakthrough.

President's jets bomb Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Jet fighters bombed Kabul yesterday as Afghanistan's warring president and prime minister exchanged threats of more bloodletting in the capital.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from yesterday's bombing raids.

Jet fighters from President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces bombed parts of south Kabul held by troops loyal to the prime minister. Warplanes belonging to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's

ally, Rashid Dostum, a former Communist general, struck western Kabul, which is controlled by the president's supporters.

Hekmatyar warned of a blood bath in Kabul if his rival, President Burhanuddin Rabbani, stays in office beyond June 30, when his term expires.

Earlier yesterday, Rabbani's spokesman, Aziz Murad, told reporters in the besieged capital that the president was extending his term another six months.

"The extension of Rabbani's term would only mean more fighting against the Afghan nation," said Hekmatyar's spokesman, Saeed Qarib. "Any bloodshed will be the responsibility of Rabbani."

Rabbani's forces control most of the capital. But they have been under almost constant attack since January 1 from rivals on the edge of the city.

Hospital officials and the International Committee for the Red

Cross estimate at least 1,600 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the past six months.

Heavy rocketing and shelling overnight Tuesday left four people dead and 41 wounded, according to a survey of several hospitals in the capital.

Every day more wounded are brought to the hospitals. Few of the injured are frontline soldiers, say officials, who ask not to be identified. They say most of the injured are civilians caught in the cross-fire.

Islamic rebels kill Tajik official, Russian officer

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) - Islamic rebels have stepped up attacks on the Russian-backed Tajik government, killing six people in an ambush yesterday, including the deputy defense minister.

Meanwhile, a Russian officer was killed in the Tajik city of Kurgan Tyube on Tuesday, and a Russian border guard died of gunshot wounds Monday at a Dushanbe

hospital, news reports said.

That brought the number of Russian servicemen killed this month in the former Soviet republic to six. Ethnic Russians in the Tajik Defense Ministry have also been targeted.

The increased violence comes just before the opening of a second round of peace talks, set to

begin Saturday in Tehran, Iranian radio reported yesterday.

Russian border guards are helping defend Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan against infiltration by Islamic fighters, who have battled pro-Communist groups for power in the Central Asian country for several years.

Yesterday morning, rebels opened fire on two military pas-

senger cars in Khait, east of the capital, Dushanbe. The cars, carrying military personnel, were destroyed by machine-gun and assault-rifle fire. Defense Ministry officials said.

Among the six dead was Deputy Defense Minister Rauf Rajabov, who led operations against Islamic rebels in the region. One person was wounded.

Rome rabbi meets controversial parliament leader

ROME (Reuters) - The speaker of Italy's parliament, Irene Pivetti, who has been accused of antisemitic remarks, met Rome's chief Rabbi Elio Toaff on Tuesday in an apparent attempt to clear the air.

Toaff said after the meeting that he had been satisfied with the talks, which had dealt with problems facing various religions in Italy. "It was easy to find common ground," he said.

Pivetti, a 31-year-old member of the Northern League and staunchly conservative Roman Catholic, is speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (lower house). She has faced criticism since her election in April over perceived past antisemitic remarks.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin referred to the Pivetti controversy last week when he expressed concern about the pres-

ence in Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government of five ministers from the neo-fascist-led National Alliance.

Toaff, to whose synagogue Pope John Paul paid a historic visit in 1986, said the meeting had gone well.

"We offered to collaborate on the common problems of the faithful in Italy and I hope our meeting today was the first of a long line of encounters," Toaff told reporters.

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Europe's fuzzy logic

THE European Parliament has not yet reached the power or status of a pan-continent governing body - many hope it never will. But this week's election results at least provided some insights into how member state voters are thinking - and leaders apparently are not.

Perhaps the first warning sign to be noted is general apathy. Many commentators had predicted widespread anger among European voters fed up with directionless national governments. Widespread yawns would appear to have been more common, since two out of three people stayed home in most of the democracies.

This may of course reflect only the Catch-22 situation the European Parliament is in as it tries to extend its influence - it can't do so because most Europeans don't think it is important enough to vote for its deputies. The 567-seat house therefore ends up representing a minority of Europeans, and hence is not taken seriously. Thus it must continue to sit on the coattails of the Council of Ministers, which is the real representative of the union's governments.

Among those who voted, the strongest emotion was indeed anger - anger at the unemployment lines that are failing to shorten, anger at ineffectual economic policies, anger at rising drug, crime and social problems. A particularly disturbing phenomenon is voters' worries about the corruption being revealed in many countries. It was noteworthy that in Italy the public consolidated in Euro-parliament elections the vote of confidence they recently gave the new government in the national poll. Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is perceived as having at last taken the knife to the cancer of corruption, according to interviews with voters.

Now an outbreak of the disease has been sweeping Britain, Germany, Spain, and France. Council of Europe Secretary General Peter Leuprecht yesterday told justice ministers from more than 35 countries meeting in Malta that corruption is a gangrene which has reached across the continent. He said it has spread to countries which regard themselves as immune by virtue of being old and firmly established democracies. It is totally rampant in the former Soviet and communist states and spreading outwards. Leuprecht said corruption is costing consumers 10 to 15 percent of the total price of goods.

It must be assumed that the basic infrastructure of European democracies and economies is sounder than it was in the 1930s - the decade with which these uncertain times are most often compared. The fact that flaws like corruption are reported more often, more

thoroughly and more honestly does not necessarily mean that Europe is on the brink of collapsing into a corrupt and fascist black hole - it simply means that, as with rape and child abuse, the reporting is much better.

Yet there is no room for complacency. The poor turnout and protest voting in the European Parliament elections are a symptom of general disillusion with the whole idea of a continental union. This is probably in line with a general cynicism about all ideals, from the religious to the political, that is marking the end of this century. The credibility of Europe's citizens has indeed taken a battering after the failure of communism, socialism and capitalism to deliver at least the illusion of eternal progress, happiness and improving life-styles. One generation has also lived through the switchback of excess 1960s people-power optimism and excess 1980s grab-what-you-can greed. As in author Tom Wolfe's memorable metaphor of a pilot punching inoperative emergency buttons, the European voter can say "I punched A. It didn't work. I punched B. It didn't work. Nothing works."

It is extremely disturbing to see voters as sophisticated as those in the twelve premier European states veering away from the mainstream governing and opposition parties to vote for mavericks on the left and right extremes. It is a sign of real frustration which has no constructive outlet. The hope is always that when extremists are propelled into mainly centrist and sensible institutions, it is they who have their rough edges knocked off, rather than the majority that is dragged to the fringe. This is one of the merits of British democracy, for example. Responsibility for actually governing democratically may also tame the neo-fascists of Italy and the gaggle of sandaled German Greens who will now drag their ozone-friendly selves through the sobering portals of the Euro-parliament.

There are no clear-cut predictions to be made from the European poll. In fact, nothing clear-cut is probably what the parliament will produce. The Europeans are still voting very definitely along national lines, and that may be the best lesson for the Eurocrats to learn. A French minister yesterday suggested that the name European Union, adopted this year, has simply been too premature. After the European Steel and Coal Community, the European Economic Community, the European Community, "European Union" just doesn't fit, he suggests. "The word 'Community' was good," he said. "The Union, by nature, is something very different." Clearly, it's something very different that Europeans are not yet ready for.



Empty talk, manic joy

ARIEL SHARON

THERE'S method in the madness. When the government is caught in a security failure in the south, it rushes to take action in the north. When it is caught lying about Jerusalem, it hurriedly expresses satisfaction with the performance of PLO terrorists masquerading as policemen in Jericho.

The government is about to release thousands of terrorists (including members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad), some of whom intelligence sources say will revert to terrorism - and immediately utters loud objections to PLO activity in Jerusalem.

(What about our MIAs? And the government's earlier denials that Hamas members wouldn't be released?)

But noises are one thing; facts on the ground another. It's difficult to comprehend the joy of the government minister who got off the garbage heaps in Israel to pose by the garbage heaps in Jericho. Why his extreme satisfaction with PLO failures, while telling off the worshippers at the Shalom Al Yisrael synagogue?

Why the satisfaction? Where do they all come from, expressions like "The autonomy is on the right path" and "Israel is happy with the Palestinian police's performance."

Is the government pleased about the ruin of the Jewish settlers in the Jordan Valley and the looting of their crops, about the toppling of dozens of telephone poles? Does it like the theft of dozens of Israeli vehicles now serving "the security forces" of arch-terrorist Jibril Rajoub, new

guardian of this government," who has already toured Israel with armed Palestinian bodyguards, inciting the Negev Beduin to war?

Is the government happy with the ceaseless harassment of Jewish passersby, encouraged by the fact that the Islamic Jihad man who killed two Israeli soldiers at the Erez checkpoint haven't been

The government is content. But about what, it's hard to fathom

handed over?

Is it happy that the Palestinian police commander in Gaza and Jericho, who demanded that that murderer and those who have killed collaborators in Gaza be handed over was met with sheer contempt?

"Private" Palestinian security forces have been set up in both Gaza and Jericho. Are these "positive and encouraging signs"?

AND WHAT about the nonstop firing on Kfar Darom, on Jewish citizens near Morag? Is that reason for enthusiasm? Do we really have "no reason to complain"?

Now to Jerusalem, where the seat of Palestinian government is being established. Diplomatic representatives of foreign govern-

ments in Israel report to it. Facts are being established there every day.

Foreign Minister Peres's Norway letter confirms and confers legitimacy on the expansion of Palestinian institutions in the city - an additional step in the realization of Yasser Arafat's plan to turn Jerusalem into the capital of his Palestinian state.

The fact that the Orient House blunder dates back to Yitzhak Shamir's day doesn't lessen the gravity of what the current government has done. It has added additional momentum to our loss of complete control in Jerusalem.

The deception which began during the Knesset election campaign is continuing. The maneuvers are shocking.

This government has been a total failure. All its political and security suppositions have proved false.

Israel's security has been compromised. Education is being emptied of all Jewish and Zionist content. The government can't even build one apartment.

Inflation is rising, poverty is increasing, immigration has practically stopped. Hebrew agriculture, the pride of Zionist creation, has been offered to PLO terrorists as a bribe.

The "New Middle East" has turned into an empty book binding. But there is a lot of talk.

This is the government's method: The more it fails, the more it talks.

Yes, there is, seemingly, method in this madness.

The writer is a Likud MK.

Big bore

RICHARD HARWOOD

JOURNALISTS and the corporations that employ them are worriers. We worry about the economic survival of the news business, about the "meaning" and social utility of what we do, about our ethics and status and about our "relevance" to a public that seems increasingly bored and turned off by the "news" as we have traditionally defined it.

Howard Kurtz, the media critic of *The Washington Post*, published a book last year in which he said, "The smell of death permeates the newspaper business."

A headline in the trade magazine *Editor & Publisher* recently noted the trend line on our health chart: "Newspaper Circulations Plummet."

Advertisers are deserting us for "new media" serving the special interests of a fragmented, narcissistic society - "the culture of contentment" - in which consumption is the dominant theme.

Young people, Jay Rosen writes, "have available to them not only a substitute source of news, but a kind of substitute universe, an alternative culture that is centered around television but is, in fact, more pervasive."

"This 'everywhere culture' - the

This whole business of news will have to be rethought

culture of popular music, Hollywood, MTV, *Entertainment Tonight*, *People* magazine - generates its own notion of currency... [and] is loosening the very ground on which the newspaper stands." Half of these people - 18 to 24 - never read a newspaper, and great numbers never watch or hear the evening news.

If "citizenship" is defined as active and informed participation in public affairs and the political process, they - the young in particular - have become noncitizens along with millions of their elders.

There are close relationships among the decline of citizenship in the US, the decline of interest in traditional definitions of "news" and the decline of journalism's large role in the life of the society. Rosen notes correctly that, "To pick up a newspaper and scan the front page is to feel yourself a member of a world in which politics and public affairs matter." That has been true since the late 18th century, and journalists have assumed ever since that our intense interest - some might say obsession - in these affairs is shared by the general population. However valid that assumption may have been in some golden era past, it obviously has little validity today.

MAST NUMBERS of Americans are not only turned off by politics and public affairs, they have become actively hostile.

The corruption of government at all levels by lobbyists and special interests of every description is a factor.

The incompetence and superficiality of the press also contributes to the public's alienation.

Our professional lives are tied up with (and greatly dependent on) the political elite - government officials, lobbyists, bureaucrats, consultants, experts and academicians. We socialize with them, have the same interests, live in the same neighborhoods, share lifestyles, schools for our children, clubs and poker games. It is no wonder that the pictures of the world we present to the newspaper audience and the spin we put on them are, in the strict meaning of the word, the "propaganda" of the ruling class.

Tom Koch, a journalist and author of books on journalism, makes the same point: "For twenty years content analysis studies have shown that between 70 and 90 percent of our content is at heart the voice of officials and their experts, translated by reporters into supposedly 'objective' news. People don't trust us anymore... because the way we quote and attribute and build factoids as if they were truth is a lie. And folks are catching on."

They not only do not freely give us their trust, they often do not understand us at all. We write in the argot of politics and the bureaucracy and the academic world. Because of uncertain prospects in the 21st century, there is a lot of talk in the press these days about reinventing ourselves through the marvels of technology - electronics and the "information highway," for example. Others see a solution in design and artistic innovation. But until we re-examine and change the way we conceive of "news," until we redefine the "reliable source" and until we learn to use a language that is accessible and meaningful to the apathetic public out there, neither the press nor our political system will be cured of its problems.

The writer is a former ombudsman of *The Washington Post*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FALSE STORY

Sir, - Why would the *Post* print, unedited, an obviously false Reuters story which accuses Samir Geagea of the bombing murder of 11 in the Jounieh church on February 27, and spreads the obviously Syrian-dictated lie that he did so in coordination with Israel?

It's as incredible that Geagea would have done that as it is credible that Syria itself would have perpetrated another murder to enforce its rule. It is entirely characteristic of Syria to then arrange whatever false witnesses it needed to get its puppet regime in Lebanon to shift its guilt onto Israel. Their evidence of any Israeli involvement is as far-fetched as the notion Israel had anything to gain by it or would have had anything to do with Syria's car-bombings in Lebanon.

I hold no brief for Geagea, who conspired with the US to under-

mine General Aoun's last hope for the independence of his country and the safety of his Christian people and sell them out at Taif to Syria, four years ago. But there would have to be irrefutable evidence to tie him to this savagery, not the show-trial stuff Syria's Lebanese puppets have been dribbling out against him to convict him of what Reuters charges.

It is impossible for him to get a fair trial under Assad's grip on Lebanon, and it is unfair for you or any gullible and ignorant Western editors to print any Reuters dispatch datelined Beirut without filtering obvious propaganda.

Lebanon is too close and vital to Israel for the *Post* to be so careless.

Grant Booth Livingstone,
Christians Concerned for Lebanon
Jerusalem.

INSPIRATION

Sir, - Curious to see how these hundreds of people camped out in Jerusalem are doing (since there's so little media coverage), living in tents, protesting the government's sell-out of the land of Israel and our security, I drove up to visit the campsite.

Believe me, I came out of there strengthened. How fortunate we are to have such dedicated Jews - the warmth, the hospitality, the sincerity constitute something everyone can learn from. Everything was calm, clean and orderly; the children were studying in groups, listening to every word of their

teachers, volunteers who came to teach them. Twelfth-grade students took off time from studying for their matriculation exams to come and help the young children.

This spirit, this love of the land and the Jewish people and its heritage cannot be stamped out by any minority government, no matter how hard it may try. We can all be proud to be part of a Jewish people that includes these "settlers" and should come and take inspiration from them.

LEAH S. WOLF
Metar.

HEALTH CARE FOR OVERSEAS AMERICANS

Sir, - A bipartisan effort is currently underway to get the US Congress to write language into the forthcoming health care measure that will provide adequate coverage for the millions of Americans residing abroad.

An open, public forum will be held on the subject at the Mt. Zion Hotel, 15, Hebron Rd., Jerusalem, on Sunday, June 19, at 1 p.m. The key speaker will be Mr. Peter Alegi, Co-chairman of FLAAG (Federal League of Americans Around the Globe) and Interna-

tional chairperson of Democrats Abroad. Mr. Alegi, based in Rome, recently met with President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton while they were in Italy. He will report on that crucial meeting as it pertains to health care for Americans living abroad, as envisioned by the Clintons.

For further information call (08)457-671.

DAVID FROELICH,
Democrats Abroad, (Israel)
Rehovot.

FLIMSY REASONS

Sir, - The reasons that Attorney-General Ben-Yair gives for closing criminal files against MK Avner Shaki (June 2) are so flimsy that one has the impression the position of MK Shaki in public life has to do with it.

There exists, according to the attorney-general, *prima facie* evidence that a crime has been committed. That much time has passed since then is not sufficient reason against serving an indictment. Some of this time was wasted through Shaki's tactics.

The second reason, that no funds were actually transferred, holds no water, as the transfer was prevented, not by Shaki's action, but because the scheme was discovered.

The third reason is patently absurd: that since then, because of Shaki's action, a public commission headed by a judge prevent future illegal misuse by a minister.

One ought to give Shaki the opportunity to clear his name after the attorney-general declared expressly that his actions were not endorsable, i.e. they were not honest.

W. S. GOLDBERG
Jerusalem.

THE SATMAR VISIT

Sir, - Since his arrival, the Satmar "Rebbe" has repeatedly made seditious, scurrilous and perfidious public statements against the State of Israel. The government must not tolerate this despicable behavior for one moment and he should be immediately declared *persona non grata* and expelled forthwith. An appropriate place to where he should be forcibly sent would be the Palestinian Autonomous Area of Jericho where he could join his fellow anti-Zionist, the Palestinian minister for Jewish affairs, Rabbi Hersch of the Eda Haredit.

MARTIN D.A. LAWSON
Ha'Ogen.

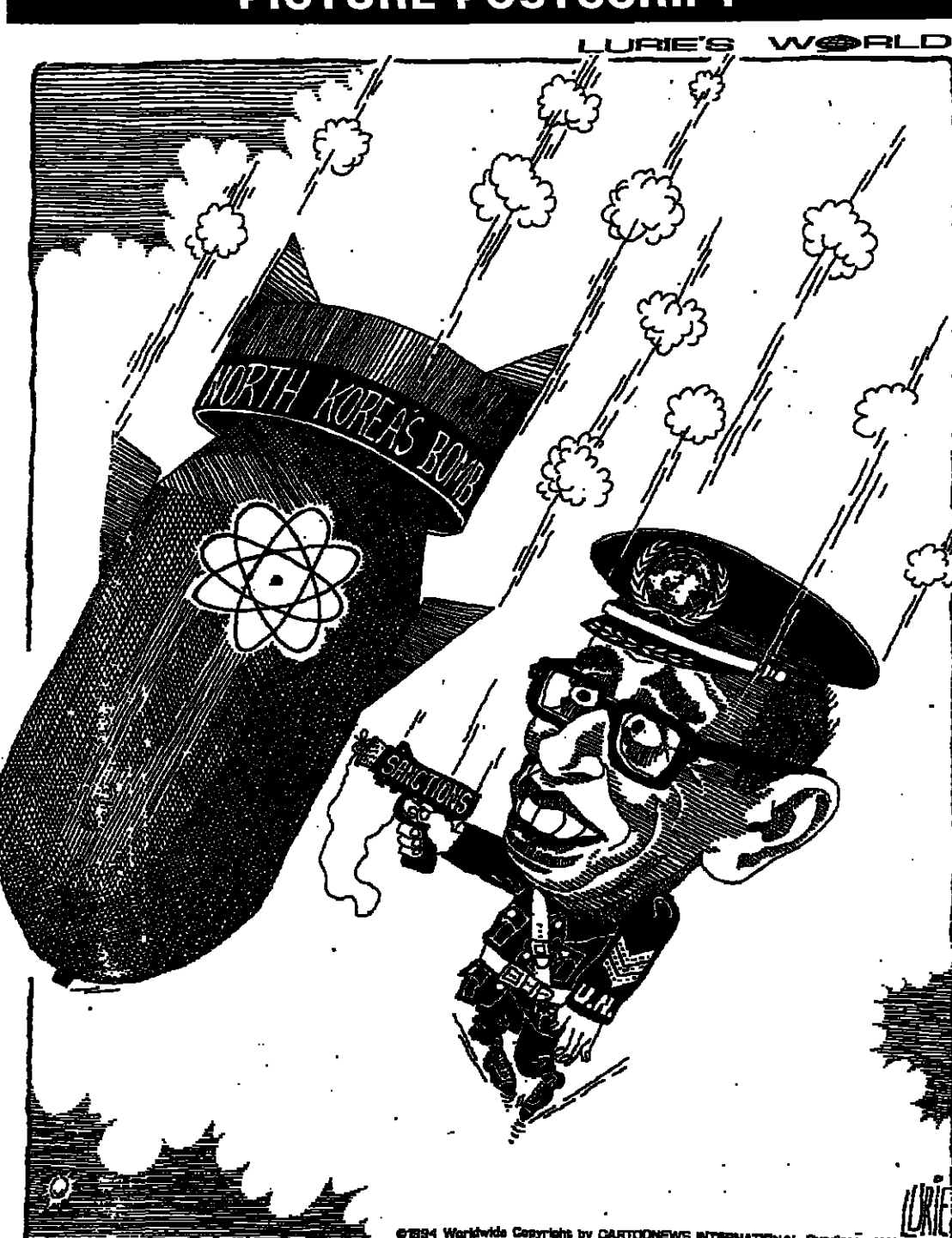
POSTSCRIPTS

CRIME DOESN'T pay if you're dumb: Edilber Guimaraes was nabbed in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, for trying to rip off a glue factory. He might have got away with it,

but poor old Edilber: he just had to stop and sniff some of the glue he was stealing, but accidentally knocked over two large cans of the stuff.

When police arrived at the factory 36 hours later, according to the *Washington Post*, they found the silly fellow glued to the floor.
Sinnva

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



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Jericho 1994

Living with might my daughter

Light-wa prus pack

Help A New Immigrant Get Settled in Israel. Remember When You Were One

New-age summers: Pop-up tent, DIY pool

OFF THE SHELF

MARTHA MEISELS

SUMMERTIME and the livin' is easy — or at least there are countless new products claiming to make it easier.

One of the most intriguing is Pop-Tent, so called because it pops open ready-for-use when tossed into the air.

The nylon tent has a built-in flexible frame which holds it in shape. While no assembly is required, the self-erecting tent does come with wind-stabilizing ropes and tent pegs, to be used as weather conditions require.

The American-made Pop-Tent is imported by and sold exclusively at the Art chain of 26 office and art supply shops, which also sell bags for school and travel.

The tents range from a half-open Cabana style for the beach, at NIS 225, to a family camping tent, at NIS 695, said to sleep five to six persons. There are also several intermediate sizes. When not in use, the tents fold almost flat to fit their own carrying pouches.

ALSO FOR campers and hikers, Amgazit of Kibbutz Kfar Etzion has introduced its Pocket Cooker. It is a folding black metal stand, resembling a flat-topped pyramid, on which to place a small pot or skillet.

It requires no special fuel. On the grating inside the sloping sides, you place easily available materials such as brush wood, dry leaves, paper, etc.

There is a flap for adding fuel as it burns. The tiny campfire inside the metal sidewalls is both safer than an open fire and easier to use in windy or wet weather.

Don't expect to cook up a full-course meal on the Pocket Cooker. But the manufacturer says that in less than 10 minutes, you can boil three cups of water for preparing instant soups or beverages.

Pocket Cooker retails for NIS 50 at camping and do-it-yourself stores and departments. It comes in a nylon carry-case.

MANY BACKYARDS in American middle-class neighborhoods have swimming pools which sit on the surface of the lawn rather than being built into the ground. Such pools are available here too.

Amgazit is the distributor of small above-ground pools sold at do-it-yourself stores with assembly instructions on a video cassette, in English.

With a water depth of one meter or less, they are suitable for

swimming, though just barely, but definitely not for diving.

The above-ground pools, called Fantasia 2000, are made of galvanized metal with a plastic interior and an aluminum ladder.

They come with a motorized filtration system, as well as a locking protective cover that keeps the water clean and avoids unsupervised use by children or pets.

Prices start at NIS 2,690 for a round pool measuring 3.65 meters across and 91 cm. deep, and go up to NIS 3,990 for a pool 4.55 meters across with a depth of 1.07 meters.

The pools are imported from the US by P'nai 2000 (Leisure 2000) of Tel Aviv (03-561-8753), which will assemble them for an additional NIS 420 in the Greater Tel Aviv area, for customers who prefer not to attempt it themselves. The small pools have a one-year guarantee.

The importer also offers larger above-ground pools requiring professional installation. These go up to about NIS 13,000, plus another NIS 1,000 or so for installation, for an oval-shaped pool, 12 meters long, 5.5 meters across, and 1.2 meters deep.

An advantage of above-ground pools, say their distributors, is that they do not require a building license, unlike built-in pools.

THE ACE Hardware do-it-yourself store at the Bilu Junction near Rehovot is featuring summertime camping and leisure products at an American-style "Summer Happening" over the next three days.

Much of the merchandise will be sold at special discounts, and children will be entertained while parents shop.

Hours are 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. today, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, and all day Shabbat from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

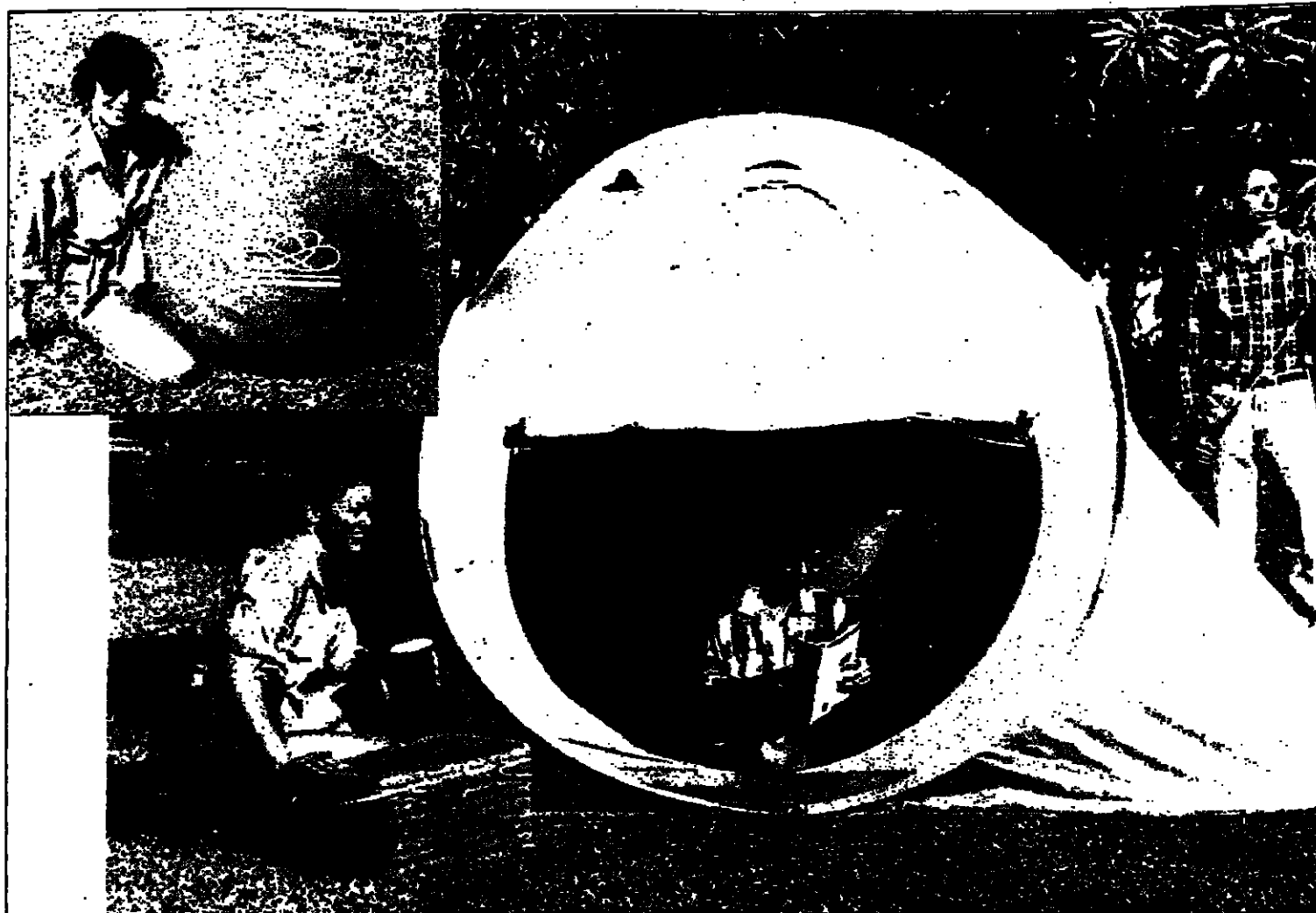
Self-assembly swimming pools, including those described above, are among the summer merchandise, as is a very large selection of floating water rings for children.

An exclusive Ace import is Baby Sun Shade, at NIS 60, which combines a floating chair for babies with a sun umbrella.

NEW NONCHEMICAL devices for repelling mosquitoes take advantage of facts about their sex life.

Only female mosquitoes bite, when seeking nourishment during pregnancy or shortly afterward. During this period, they avoid the presence of male mosquitoes.

The Italian import Z. Aur (sic) emits a high-pitched sound which drives away female mosquitoes by



Toss the Pop-Tent in the air and get instant results, from a small circle-shaped bag (inset, left) to a family camping tent (shown here) or a half-open Cabana-style tent for the beach; a floating giraffe is one of the leisure-time and camping products available at Ace Hardware near Rehovot.

fooling them into thinking there is a male nearby.

The device comes both in an electric wall-socket version for home use and a portable version for outdoor use, such as by campers and soldiers. The recommended price is NIS 59 for either type (not including the 9-volt battery for the portable), mainly at pharmacies.

Even assuming the device does the job within a 25 square meter area as claimed, one wonders how well it will work with the volume low enough so as not to drive humans crazy.

At the lowest setting, it is virtually inaudible. But instructions say to turn up the volume control on the high-pitched screech wherever there is competing background noise from radio, TV or vehicle traffic.

The distributor (Shapira of Petah Tikva) suggests leaving the

screech at full volume in empty rooms — with a window open to allow female mosquitoes to escape; then turn it to the lowest setting when you enter the room. The electricity consumption is said to be negligible.

An American device, shaped like a ladybug and called the Love Bug, works on the same principle. It is available through the latest issue of Isracard's phone-order catalog for NIS 49.70, instead of the usual NIS 58.70.

It claims to be effective within a radius of seven to 10 meters. Love Bug works only on a 9-volt battery, not included in the price.

Intended for indoor or outdoor use, the cute red-and-black bug attaches easily to railings and other surfaces.

HYPER CO-OP and its affiliate, Super Center, are promoting a new line of pest control products



as environmentally friendly.

However, while they contain no poisonous chemicals, their method of operation may be equally repugnant to many consumers, especially the ecologically concerned.

These are glue traps variously designed to trap mice, rats, ants,

cockroaches or flying insects, which become stuck on the sticky surface. Even if an ant or mosquito might die quickly in the glue trap, the larger creatures will not.

Perhaps the Co-op chain should reconsider this rather gruesome product line, or at least stop boasting of it as a "green" achievement.

Unorthodox fashions

GREER FAY CASHMAN

FLAIR

MENTION unorthodox fashions in Europe, America or Australia and most people will know that you are talking about something off the wall, out of the ordinary, perhaps a little outrageous.

But unorthodox fashions in Israel and some other parts of the Middle East are something else.

Unorthodox fashions here are those which offend the standards of modesty of the Orthodox community.

Every now and again self-appointed Orthodox guardians of modesty have defaced posters depicting women in any form of provocative garb — namely clothes which expose too much bare flesh.

But the Orthodox are now a powerful consumer force. Soon, they won't have to go around defacing anything, as boycott threats have yielded results. Companies such as Poster Media are cautioning clients to photograph their models in clothes which cover nearly everything.

It is becoming increasingly rare to see blown-up photographs of models in one-piece swimsuits let alone bikinis. Underwear and shorts have also become taboo on bus-stop posters, though they do continue to appear on buses from time to time.

T.C. Trading, which markets sexy Dee Guy sportswear, has discovered that most of its advertisements on buses have been sprayed with paint to blot out bare arms, legs and midriffs.

The company has yet to decide whether it will take an "if you can't beat them join them" stance, or whether it will continue to feature what the Orthodox community regards as an eyesore.

Masha Lubelsky, deputy minister for Commerce and Industry, though a fairly conservative dresser herself, is furious that advertisers are allowing bared pressure groups to infringe on their rights, and is seriously considering the possibility of imposing legal sanctions against economic blackmail.

It is doubtful whether Orthodox coercion can influence what is worn on the street, but it seems that it definitely does hold weight when it comes to advertising in public areas.

How this will affect future sales remains to be seen. But it could have the opposite of the desired effect: in that what is forbidden and out of the public eye will become infinitely more desirable.

The aluminum revolution: Lighter, longer and very expensive

MOTORING

JOEL GORDIN

AUDI A8. Engine size: 4,172 cc., eight cylinders. Horsepower: 300 at 6000 rpm. Torque: 400 at 3,300 rpm. Gear: "Tiptronic" manual and automatic.

Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 7.1 secs. Top speed: 250 kph. Gasoline consumption: at 90 kph, 12.1 km/l; in town, 6.1 km/l.

Price: In the UK: £46,000 (NIS 207,000). Not yet available in Israel.

ON a German autobahn, you can legally travel as fast your automobile can carry you — and the white needle on the Audi A8's speedometer swung to 240 kph when I recently "piloted" it from Stuttgart to Baden-Baden.

But German drivers paid little attention to the sleek profile streaking past them because, at first glance, they had no clue that this new Audi could be one of the most revolutionary cars made for decades.

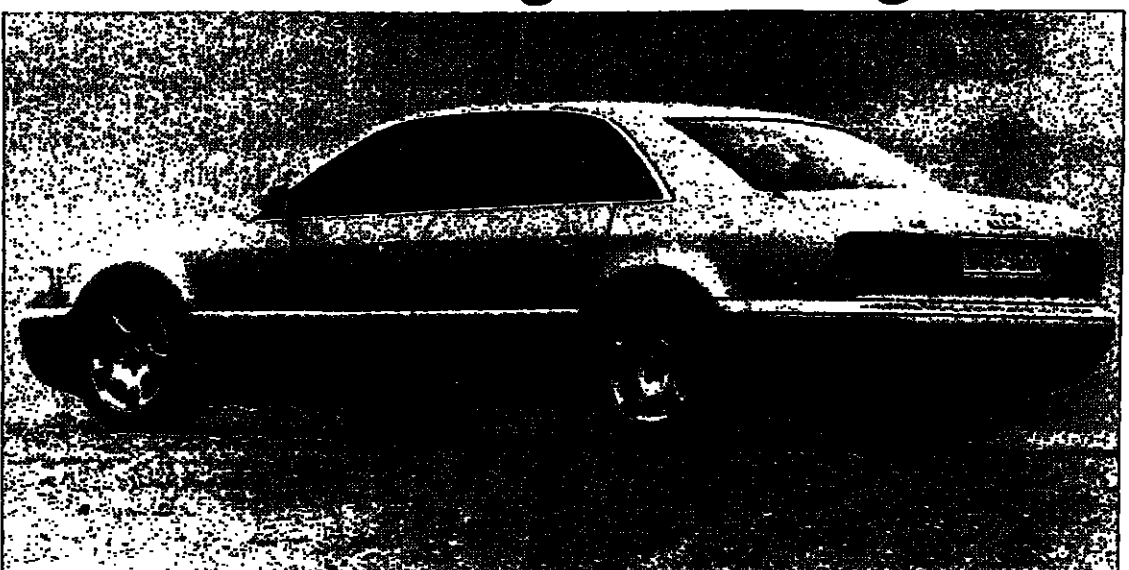
The A8 looks like a lower, wider version of the Audi 100. How-

ever, on closer inspection, you'll see that it's built of aluminum rather than the heavier steel — a brave technical step no other manufacturer has taken in mass production. (The first Land Rovers used the light alloy owing to a postwar shortage of steel. Even today, models ranging from the Defender to the Range Rover have aluminum panels; but the chassis is still made of steel.)

The A8, recently unveiled to motoring journalists in the Black Forest, will give Audi back the technical leadership it enjoyed during the 1980s, when it came out with the first four-wheel-drive saloon, the Quattro, which had a stunning success on the rally circuit.

Aluminum is lighter than steel, and although the A8 is longer than both a Mercedes S-class and a BMW 7-series, it weighs 140 kg. less. The weight reduction is not only speed-friendly; it leads to improved fuel consumption.

Audi chief executive Dr Herbert Diess explains: "The weight of a car is responsible for 70 percent of its fuel consumption. Put another way, if you reduce weight by 10 percent, fuel economy improves by 7 percent."



Audi predicts that, thanks to its A8, other automakers will follow its lead in using aluminum.

Aluminum also pleases the green folk because of its potential for recycling. "New A8s can be made out of old A8s," says Franz-Josef Paefgen, Audi's head of body engineering.

HOWEVER, the A8 is no Tin Lizzie, made from recycled beer

cans. The bodyshell, called the ASF (Audi Space Frame), is a scientifically designed framework of aluminum beams on which aluminum panels are integrated to share the load-bearing.

Audi claims the ASF functions like a safety cage, and that the passenger cell is more rigid than

comparable, conventional sheet-steel bodies. The metal can also be easily re-welded and repaired, say the makers.

The A8 could, of course, be much lighter than its 1,750 kg., but the designers have invested the kilos saved in a body length of 5.03 m., which gives exceptional

comfort; a massive 4.2 liter V8 engine and a slew of hi-tech (such as temperature control for each individual passenger seat and electrically controlled seatbelts).

The powerpack belts out a mighty 300 horses and is mated to the Porsche-patented "Tiptronic" four-speed gearbox.

This offers the driver a choice, at the flick of a lever, of a computer-controlled automatic shift which adapts itself to an individual driver's style, or a clutch-less, push-button manual shift.

Most drivers will use the automatic shift in town and the manual shift in the country.

The Tiptronic enhances the driver's contact with the road. The combination of permanent four-wheel drive with an electronic differential lock supplies maximum engine power to all wheels in all conditions.

All this hi-tech, combined with the 16-inch wheels and wide 225/60 tires, gives sports car-like road holding on the sharpest bends and makes up for the too-soft suspension (a sportier, stiffer version will follow in a few months' time).

Audi is the jewel in the crown of the Volkswagen group, Europe's biggest motor manufacturer. VW

relies on Audi to compete with Mercedes, BMW or Jaguar, the leading European luxury-saloon manufacturers.

The company's engineers have invested 10 years' research into the A8's aluminum body — and the result appears to be leaving BMW & Co. bogged down in heavy metal.

Trouble is, all this efficiency is currently only available to those with a lot of money to spend. Aluminum is about three times more expensive than steel: witness the A8's UK price. In Germany, the car sells for 110,000 marks.

When it gets to Israel, it will probably go for more than NIS 300,000. Will the average new-car buyer be prepared to pay that much extra for a lightweight car?

It's too early to tell whether Audi has come up with a revolutionary concept, whether the use of aluminum in automobiles will, as the makers claim, become widespread by the end of the century.

A more modest version of the A8 is the 2.8-liter, front-wheel-drive V6, with either automatic or manual shift generating 174 horses.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

FOLDABLE SOFA — with storage compartment, new, NIS 300. David, 02-582598.

BABY'S STROLLER — double umbrella type for twins, folding, good condition, NIS 150. Single, in-down Circo, well kept, NIS 140. 03-539329.

AUTO-TRANSFORMER — step down, SD-20 large, 2000 VA, 3060 Hz 230/115V, grounded line cord, NIS 300. 04-848186.

10 SIMPLE SUMMER DRESSES — NIS 10 each; 14 tailored blouses, NIS 5 each; corduroy jeans, NIS 20. All small women's sizes, 04-252121.

EASTAfrican REGGAE SWEATER — handmade in South Africa, as new, NIS 30 o.b.o. 09-556408.

PRINCE TENNIS RACKET — new, NIS 120; Siemens' fan heater, with warranty, NIS 100; bamboo sofa, NIS 75. 03-673785.

ELECTRIC RAZOR — new, NIS 75; Remington razor, adjustable, NIS 30. 04-345844.

BUFFET — formula, white, new, NIS 100; 2 Soltan pots, 2 teflon pans, NIS 100; Portable line cord, 6, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000. 03-509771.

NEW YORKER — magazine: covers, from 1966 on, in hundreds, in mint condition. Best offer, 04-928788. NS.

SUITCASE — large, on wheels, in excellent condition, NIS 100. 04-222702.

SPRINKLER HAND-WASHING MACHINE — new in box, NIS 159. 09-558374.

CRIB WITH MATTRESS — American, excellent condition, NIS 300. 09-420158.

THERAPY — board game for 2-6 players, good condition, NIS 30 o.b.o. 09-556408.

TRICKS KIT — Skyrunner, good condition, NIS 80 o.b.o. Will deliver, 09-556408.

SET OF MEAT CARVERS — new, stainless-steel wing pattern, made in Sheffield. Imported by Bieder's, NIS 250. 03-6972601. NS.

TV STAND — 3 shelves, smart, black metal, like new, NIS 250. 08-476608. NS.

APPLE IIE — US model, computer, drive, monitor, software, documentation, excellent condition, NIS 300. 09-937283.

GAS STOVE — NIS 300. 06-396003.

CHILDREN'S AND POCKET BOOKS IN GERMAN — NIS 1 to 2 each, 09-584745.

MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD GOODS — NIS 20-30 each, 03-5220153.

GAS BURNER — tabletop built-in, good condition, 4 burners, NIS 285. 09-912790.

MEN'S SILK SUIT — beige, double-breasted, size 42/44 regular, NIS 150, lightweight summer suits, NIS 75, all like new, 09-351759.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SOCIAL SCIENCES — 15 volumes, 1957 edition, NIS 100; World Book Encyclopedia, 18 volumes, 1957 edition, NIS 80. Call Esther or Kart, 08-79422. 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

DR. SCHOLL'S MEN'S SPORT SHOES — deep cushioned, new, US size 11 (44), NIS 150; aluminum tennis racket, NIS 150. 03-5237816.

JACUZZI/AIR BUBBLE BATH — fits home bathtub, including bubblemat, wall installations, accessories, instructions, working order after cleaning, NIS 300. 07-732803.

APPLE IIe COMPUTER — programs, excellent condition, NIS 300. 03-545898.

CASIO WATCHES — G-Shock, new, perfect condition, 3 different models, NIS 300 for all three, 02-522762.

COMPLETE SET CASSINO — NIS 250; Swiss Shashon dictionary, NIS 50. 09-916328.

AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY FOR IBM COMPATIBLE — needed 6.5 mb, NIS 175. 02-632074.

DOUBLE CARRIAGE — NIS 300. 02-724770.

GUITAR — excellent condition, with accessories, NIS 100; 4 black padded bar stools, 75 cm. NIS 60. 02-384314.

AMCOR 12 REFRIGERATOR — in good condition, NIS 300. 02-810638.

REFRIGERATOR — Tadiran deluxe, needs repair, NIS 300. 02-865523 NS.

CAR SEAT FOR CHILD — Evenflo, NIS 125. 02-781833, weekdays.

2 KITCHEN CHAIRS — white vinyl, NIS 50 each; white oval coffee table from Danish, Kestop, leg needs repair, NIS 80. 02-618485. NS.

ELECTRIC SHAVERS — Norelco, NIS 120; scientific calculator watch — Casio, NIS 180. Eric, 02-824875.

DRAFTING TABLE — wood, adjustable, 80 cm. x 120 cm., NIS 250. 02-258595.

PEREGO STROLLER — 3 positions, good condition, NIS 300. 02-611863.

MEN'S DRESS SHIRTS — large: white, NIS 25; blue: NIS 50, new imported; children's jeans, US, new, NIS 30-50, different sizes, 02-528024.

WALKMAN — Aiwa am/fm cassette recorder with auto reverse, Call Eric, 02-824875.

LIVING ROOM LAMP AND SHADE — NIS 125; electric shaver, new, Braun, NIS 175. 02-860954.

SPACE HEATER — Italian, small, 2000 W, used one season only, NIS 100; hot plate for Shabbat or other, electric, NIS 50. 02-611970.

HI-RISER — American, good condition, NIS 300. 02-662552. NS.

LEGOS FOR CHILDREN — children's toys, vacuum cleaner, woman's leather bag, NIS 300. 03-500003.

WALL-TO-WALL BATH RUG — NIS 300. 02-611486. 02-666230.

SPACE HEATER — DeLonghi convector, multiple settings, thermostat, fan, like new, NIS 250. 02-630546. NS.

WOODEN SIDEBORD/BUFFET — 160 x 50 x 86 cm., NIS 300. 02-760692.

BLENDER — like new, NIS 110. Jay, 02-669182. NS.

SOFA BED — sleeps 2, good condition, prefabricated with storage drawer, 02-789712. NS.

CD WALKMAN/PLAYER — new + six batteries + headphones, NIS 300, Tony, 02-287005.

BABY CARRIAGE — convertible stroller with rainhood, NIS 280 o.b.o. 02-610122. NS.

WALL-TO-WALL BATH RUG — NIS 300. 02-611486. 02-666230.

SPACE HEATER — DeLonghi convector, multiple settings, thermostat, fan, like new, NIS 250. 02-630546. NS.

WOODEN SIDEBORD/BUFFET — 160 x 50 x 86 cm., NIS 300. 02-760692.

BLENDER — like new, NIS 110. Jay, 02-669182. NS.

16. 1994 The Jerusalem Post

Big bore

RICHARD HARRIS

JOHN HARRIS

JOHN HARRIS

JOHN HARRIS

JOHN HARRIS

JOHN HARRIS

JOHN HARRIS

BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1994

Central bank panel: Give permit to Ofer-Wertheim group for Mizrahi Bank

JOSE ROSENFELD and GALIT LIPKIS

THE Bank of Israel licensing committee has decided to recommend that Central Bank governor Jacob Frenkel give a permit in principle to the Ofer-Wertheim group to acquire a controlling stake in United Mizrahi Bank.

The Ofer-Wertheim consortium includes a number of companies controlled by Sami and Yuli Ofer (the Cable company, Ofer Ship Holding and LIN), Central Botling Co. chairman Muzi Wertheim and Abe Feinberg.

The licensing committee agreed not to take a decision regarding the second group bidding for control of the bank - the La National-Akroiv-Steinmetz - until all relevant information has been received.

The group informed the Bank of Israel on Tuesday that there had been a substantive change in the composition of the consortium.

Mario Laznik, who would have represented 15 percent of the consortium, has withdrawn, while the foreign Forsyte group has increased its participation.

A third group, led by the Nasser family, formally pulled out of the bidding yesterday.

In a letter sent to MI Holdings, the government company handling the sale of the "arrangement" banks, the group said its decision is due to the kidnapping in Brazil of Yehzekel Nassar, the leading

family figure in the group. The consortia are bidding for a minimum stake in the bank of 26%, with an option to acquire up to a total of 51%.

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The two cases are completely different on the factual level, involving different banks and different investors, the justices ruled, and therefore a separate petition must be submitted on the Mizrahi issue.

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According to the complaint, Ofer helped fund Landau's election campaign.

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Shares in Isramco rise after gas discovered

RACHEL NEIMAN

SHARES in oil exploration firms Isramco, Joel and Passport surged 10 percent yesterday on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange following Isramco's announcement that high concentrations of gas were found during test drilling at the Jaffa Sea 1 site.

Samples from a depth of 4,894 meters showed rising amounts of hydrocarbon gas. The drill well

was immediately closed but will be reopened after a stabilization process, achieved by pumping mud into the well.

Trading on the shares was halted briefly during the day and surged when trading resumed. Other oil exploration shares also rose between 6% and 10%.

Located some 20 kilometers northwest of Tel Aviv, initial tests at the drilling site did not indicate a need for production testing. Isramco intends to drill to a depth of 5,400 meters.

The partners are Isramco-Negev (71%), JOEL (8%), Passport (6%), Naphtha and Naphtha Explorations (5%), Delek Drilling (4%) and Isramco Inc. (1%).

Deposits in savings plans surge 456%

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE public's medium and long-term deposits in bank savings plans jumped a dramatic 456 percent in May to NIS 657.1 million from NIS 144m. in April, the Treasury's capital markets division announced yesterday.

During the first two months of the second quarter of the year, there has been a significant reversal compared to the first quarter, when savers' withdrawals were higher than deposits.

As a result, the net increase in deposits from the beginning of the year to May totaled only NIS 536.2m.

Deputy supervisor of capital markets Linda Ben-Shushan attributed the growth to the banks' aggressive marketing campaign for medium-term savings deposits.

In addition, she noted, the banks have raised the interest they pay on such deposits.

For example, Bank Tefahot was paying between 2.6% and 2.7% on index-linked savings and is now offering 3.3%. Dollar-linked savings can pay up to 5% interest.

Ben-Shushan said the banks are also providing alternative linkages, which pay the saver the highest return among the alternatives. She said it was possible, although the data has yet to be analyzed, that part of the phenomenal growth in savings derives from people who had invested in the stock market and wanted a refuge from the market's wild fluctuations.

The savings programs are for a minimum two-year period. However, if individuals want to withdraw their money after a year, they can receive 90 percent of the linkage.

Harish insists Israel Chemicals move its HQ to Beersheba

Ares Sero wants InterPharm to deregister its shares on NASDAQ

RACHEL NEIMAN

FOLLOWING the expiration of its \$22 per share tender offer on Friday, Ares Sero wants to strongly recommend that subsidiary InterPharm deregister its shares traded on NASDAQ.

By delisting its shares, InterPharm would continue trading only on the pink sheets (for thinly traded NASDAQ stocks).

The company has pointed out that trading in this fashion makes Israeli shareholders liable for a capital gains tax of between 30 percent and 50%, while shares sold as part of the tender offer are tax exempt.

Shareholders will have to decide within the next two days whether or not to take the offer.

"We advise people based on fairness, trading value and projections for the next three years," a representative of dealer-manager Bear Stearns said, adding that a total of 448,441 of all outstanding shares were validly tendered.

Company sources expect another 100,000 will be tendered, far less than Ares Sero's targeted 75 percent for June 10. The company then issued an offer for any and all shares, extending the expiry date until this Friday.

InterPharm is expected to ask the court today to rescind two injunctions obtained by the minority shareholders.

At the same time the company intends to file a suit against the shareholders for damages.

Earlier this week, InterPharm released a statement on the temporary restraining order issued against Ares Sero, instructing its legal counsel to "take all action to remove the order and take all recourse available against those responsible for the disruption of its business."

Furthermore, InterPharm said it would stop all sales "because the order, as written, requires Ares Sero to cease production, clinical studies and registration of the drug. The result of such a cessation of sales will have an immediate and materially detrimental effect on the business of InterPharm."

"This announcement is both erroneous and misleading," an InterPharm minority shareholder said. "The court did not restrain in any way or manner InterPharm from selling the product to Ares Sero or to any other company."

But, insider sources said, InterPharm's large institutional investors have all accepted the tender offer, as have some members of the dissident group.

The shareholder stressed that every individual was responsible for their own decision and was not recommending whether others should hold or sell.

"Today's announcement is a further intention to frighten the shareholders and practically terrorize people into tendering the shares at the offered price," the shareholder said.

Harish insists Israel Chemicals move its HQ to Beersheba

AMIR ROZENBLIT

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Micha Harish has declared he will insist the Israel Chemicals board of directors meet to discuss moving the company's headquarters to Beersheba from Ramat Gan, despite the objection of the company's chairman and the head of the Government Companies Authority.

The board meeting, scheduled for June 27, is to discuss the conclusions of a committee headed by accountant Amir Hayek.

The committee determined that moving the headquarters to the Negev would improve the operations of ICL and its subsidiaries. ICL has a major factory complex in Beersheba, and several of its subsidiaries operate in the South.

Sources close to Harish quoted him as saying that the plan to move the headquarters had the support of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

If the government's representatives on the board do not vote in accordance with these ministers' wishes, the sources said, Harish would not extend their terms on the board.

The possibility of having the headquarters moved to Beersheba has generated feverish lobbying to assure that the move does, in fact, take place.

Three groups that organized to promote the move sent a letter to each ICL board member, in which they criticized "people for whom their personal interest and self-importance are more important than



Harish threatens not to extend board members terms.

(Zeev Ackerman)

the building of the state."

"If you, the leaders in the economy, prevent the advancement of the Negev in general and Beersheba in particular, as the capital of the Negev, we are likely to find an Israel divided into a poor South and a rich North," the letter continued.

The letter urged them to ignore the objections of ICL chairman Victor Medina, and vote for the move.

ICL officials have expressed objections to the move, saying it would cause business to suffer.

But Harish has denied this. "Not only is there no risk of damage to the company's business, but senior ICL officials claim the company's business is currently hindered because its headquarters are not based in Beersheba," Harish said last week.

Treasury asks for NIS 400m. in loan guarantees for investment projects

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Treasury yesterday asked the Knesset finance committee to approve an additional NIS 400 million in loan guarantees for investment projects under the Capital Investments Encouragement Law.

The Industry and Trade Ministry's Investment Center has exhausted the approved quota of NIS 1.6 billion for establishing new companies and expanding existing ones under the law.

The Treasury requested the funding to enable the Investment Center to continue providing guarantees to investors of approved projects.

The NIS 400m. will be used to meet government obligations to provide full loan guarantees under the original program, as well as partial guarantees under the recently revised regulations.

Under the new rules, the government will only provide 75 percent of the guarantees, while the bank will back the remaining 25% of the loan.

In the case of guarantees for operating capital loans, the government's share will go up to 85%, and the bank's responsibility will go down to 15%.

The reduction in government risk will be accompanied by a smaller loan guarantee transaction fee that will range between 1% and 1.5% of the loan.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (14.6.94)

Currency (deposit for):	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.750	4.125	4.750
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.500	3.750	4.375
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.000	4.000	4.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.250	3.375	3.500
Yen (10 million yen)	0.500	0.525	0.575

(Rates may be higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (15.6.94)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.3050	3.3010	2.97	3.11	3.2226
U.S. dollar	3.0228	3.0188	2.87	3.01	3.0480
German mark	1.8397	1.8857	1.87	1.89	1.8516
Pound sterling	4.8001	4.8551	4.51	4.72	4.5244
French franc	0.5383	0.5480	0.52	0.55	0.5247
Japanese yen (100)	2.9457	2.9573	2.99	3.03	2.9557
Dutch florin	1.6480	1.6593	1.62	1.68	1.6550
Swiss franc	2.1834	2.2142	2.14	2.25	2.1973
Swedish krona	0.3934	0.3986	0.38	0.39	0.3925
Norwegian krona	0.4240	0.4300	0.42	0.44	0.4267
Danish krona	0.4704	0.4770	0.46	0.48	0.4735
Finnish mark	0.5595	0.5595	0.54	0.57	0.5631
Canadian dollar	2.1834	2.2142	2.14	2.25	2.2002
Australian dollar	2.2074	2.2396	2.16	2.28	2.2216
S. African rand	0.8357	0.8476	0.85	0.78	0.9015
U.S. dollar (10)	0.2849	0.3075	0.68	0.62	0.6892
Austrian schilling (10)	2.6182	2.6552	2.57	2.69	2.6337
Italian lire (1000)	1.8918	1.9185	1.85	1.85	1.9014
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.22	4.48	4.2544
Israeli shekel (ECU)	—	—	0.92	0.92	0.9290
ECU	3.5490	3.5592	—	—	3.5579
Irish punt	4.4964	4.5569	4.38	4.67	4.5298
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2352	2.2608	2.17	2.32	2.2463

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: LEUMI

OPEC leaders opt for no changes

Decision made to keep oil prices rising

VIENNA (Reuters) - OPEC oil ministers agreed from the outset of their mid-year conference that the best way to try to keep a recovery in the oil price going was to leave pumping levels unchanged for the rest of the year.

Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Azagadeh, who only arrived in Vienna a few hours before the start of the conference, swiftly removed any suggestion that he wanted to adopt a more forceful strategy than OPEC's biggest producer, Saudi Arabia.

"It will help the price situation...the ceiling is good for the fourth quarter," Azagadeh said yesterday.

OPEC members agreed last March to keep their combined output at 24.52 million barrels per day through until the end of the year and oil prices have responded by rising by around \$3.50 from the five-year lows seen in February.

On the London futures market the world benchmark crude North Sea Brent stood at \$16.48 a barrel at midday, and showed little reaction to the talks.

The OPEC president, Qatar's Oil Minister Abdullah bin-Hamad Attiyah, in a valedictory address before making way for a new conference president, Libyan Oil Minister Abdullah Salem Badri, said he was confident of OPEC's political will to raise oil prices.

But Attiyah added a note of caution.

"The recent development (the price rally) should be viewed with caution as the underlying fundamentals indicate that improvement of demand may be limited."

OPEC has now held the same production ceiling since September last year, and the ministers hope that by keeping it through to the end of this year the oil market will enjoy some stability and prices will edge higher.

"The rollover (of output quotas) for the year has enabled OPEC to take a rest and to take a better look at the market (and to defeat its short-termism)," Venezuelan Oil Minister Erwin Arieta told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday.

The ministers adjourned their

first plenary session after a few minutes, leaving the main outstanding question of who will replace Indonesia's Subroto as Secretary-General to be resolved in informal talks.

Iran and Venezuela are vying for the post as head of OPEC's Vienna headquarters once the veteran Indonesian steps down.

This could prove acrimonious as Iran is insisting that on the grounds of alphabetical rotation its candidate Kazempour Ardebili, currently its envoy to Japan, should get the job.

But, Venezuela's former oil minister Alirio Parra has the support of most OPEC members and if they cannot resolve the issue Subroto is likely to stay a while longer.

Attiyah confirmed OPEC watchers' view that this meeting is OPEC's easiest since the early 1980s, as there are no hard policy decisions to take and the market is going in its favor.

"What I can tell you is it is a very quiet meeting. For the first time in many years we have a very

quiet and very smooth meeting," he said minutes before the conference started.

Saudi Arabia and Iran, the two main powers in the Middle East Gulf and the two largest oil producers in OPEC, have clashed over a number of foreign policy issues in recent months.

But Azagadeh told reporters that the two countries were working well together within OPEC and his own relations with his Saudi counterpart Hisham Nazer were very good.

He declined to comment on the two countries' ties outside OPEC. There has been friction between Riyadh and Teheran over their policies toward Yemen, Iraq and Iran's claim to some small islands also claimed by the United Arab Emirates.

When it comes to oil, both countries want higher prices.

Iran needs to shore up a crumbling economy and Saudi Arabia, which slashed budget spending this year, needs cash to make repayments on foreign loans and arms purchases.

UK unemployment reaches two-year low

9.4% jobless rate, steady inflation indicate recovery

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's economic recovery is forging ahead with unemployment dipping to its lowest level in more than two years and inflation still in check, official statistics released yesterday showed.

Prime Minister John Major's battered government took heart at news that Britain's jobless total fell by 20,100 in May to 2.66 million or 9.4 percent of the workforce - a 26-month low.

Inflation was steady at April's level of 2.6% while the rate of increase in average earnings slowed to 3.75% in April from 4.0% in March despite recent signs that wage pressures in Britain are starting to mount.

"The trends are now clear and show that Britain is firmly set for sustained, non-inflationary growth," Employment Secretary David Hunt said.

He pointed out that unemployment had fallen by around 300,000 in Britain during the past 18 months while during the same period in Europe the jobless rate had climbed.

Unemployment in Britain fell

by an average 28,300 per month during the last six months compared with average monthly falls of 6,300 in the previous six, the Department of Employment said.

But Hunt stressed that the Conservative government - which is still reeling from its trouncing at European Parliamentary elections last week - would do its utmost to keep wage rises in check in both the public and private sectors.

"Sensible pay settlements are essential...we are not prepared to see this country go down the route of inflationary wage increases which destroy our competitiveness," he said.

"We attach the highest possible importance to restraining pay bill costs and controlling public expenditure...and in the private sector we must not allow ourselves to go down the path of pay increases which destroy competitiveness."

His remarks set the tone for last night's annual Mansion House speech by Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke, who is expected to say the government

will stamp hard on price pressures to ensure the recovery is sustainable.

Britain's government bond (gilt) market, hard-hit by inflation fears, welcomed yesterday's data.

The long September gilt futures contract - which leads cash market prices - surged three-quarters of a point to a high of 101-9/32 before slipping back to 100-29/32.

Sterling exchange traders largely ignored the employment and inflation figures, which helped quash expectations of a near-term change in Britain's 5.25% base interest rate - the lowest level seen since the early 1970s.

"The immediate pressure on the chancellor to take account of the Bank of England's concerns about inflation and the need to raise interest rates in the autumn will be eased by these figures," Marian Bell, Royal Bank of Scotland economist said.

The data also reinforced growing evidence that the £8 billion (\$12b.) worth of tax rises which took effect in April had so far had no effect on Britain's recovery, analysts said.

Oil ministers in tangle over Subroto successor

VIENNA (Reuters) - The question of who takes over the job of running OPEC's Vienna headquarters and acting as the group's public face has drawn the group into a political impasse.

OPEC's mid-year ministerial conference which began here yesterday should be secretary-general Subroto's last.

The former Indonesian oil minister was a popular choice six years ago, coming from the only East Asian country among the 12 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, but he has now completed the maximum two terms in office.

Venezuela and Iran have both fielded candidates and the succession has become the central issue at the conference.

The problem for OPEC is how to say "No" to Iran without causing offense, as Teheran's nominee Kazempour Ardebili has the personal backing of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Arab delegates said.

Ardebili is regarded as a rising star in Iranian politics, having held the post of deputy oil minister and deputy foreign minister, and is currently ambassador to Japan.

But a Gulf Arab delegate said bluntly: "Nobody wants the Iranian."

The majority of OPEC wants Alirio Parra, who also has his president's support and as oil minister between March 1992 and February 1994 acted as the group's conference president in 1993.

"Right now it looks like deadlock. We'll have to see if we can make a compromise with Iran," said one Arab delegate.



Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah (left), who serves as OPEC's president, opens yesterday's conference in Vienna along with secretary-general Subroto. (AP)

But Teheran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Azagadeh arrived here yesterday saying there were no circumstances under which his country would withdraw its candidate.

If Iran cannot be persuaded to withdraw its candidate, OPEC is faced with two options.

Either it can change its statutes to allow Subroto an extension or it can appoint his deputy, Ramzi Salman.

But Salman is an Iraqi and is unlikely to be acceptable to Kuwait, delegates said.

And it could be argued that as Iraq is still subject to a United Nations ban on oil exports Salman would be in an anomalous position if he were appointed.

Parra is a veteran negotiator with 30 years of oil industry experience and his links with OPEC since it was created in 1960 provide his credentials as a natural candidate on merit.

Coming from OPEC's only South American country Parra is also widely regarded as a neutral in an organization dominated by Middle East states.

The Gulf Arab delegate said: "The Iranians might be able to get one other supporter for Ardebili but no more."

Iran's traditional allies on the radical side of OPEC had fallen by the wayside, he said.

Algeria had shifted its position since the emergence of an Islamic fundamentalist challenge to its government, and Libya was trying to move closer to Saudi Arabia in the new world order that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Gulf Arab said.

US industrial production up 12th straight month

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Industrial production rose in May for the 12th consecutive month, the Federal Reserve said yesterday, even as the rate at which factories operated slowed slightly.

The Fed said production increased by 0.2% in the month following a downward revised increase of 0.1% in April, continuing a string of advances that began last June.

Factories' utilization of their productive capacity - the measure of maximum productive ability -

fell slightly to 83.5% from 83.6% in April. Both figures were in line with economists' projections.

The Fed said a drop in output of motor vehicles was offset by increases in business equipment and construction supplies.

The decline in factory use, the second in as many months, should take some of the pressure off economic policymakers, worried that the strong production pace might lead to an overheated economy.

At the same time, the continued increases in production added to

evidence that the recovery continued to move ahead at a moderate and likely sustainable pace.

The Fed has raised interest rates four times since February in an attempt to head off inflationary pressures.

The economy grew by 3.0% in the first quarter and analysts as well as senior Fed officials believe the second quarter will show even more buoyant activity.

The economy, however, has been showing some evidence of moderating overall, as consumers have slowed their frenetic

buying pace since earlier in the year.

Housing, an economic leader, has slowed a bit as mortgage rates have risen, shutting off some first-time buyers unable to make monthly payments at the higher levels.

The Fed said that car production fell to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.3 million units in May, down from 6.7 million units in the prior month.

It had previously reported that overall production rose by 0.3% in April.

Glaxo chairman retires

LONDON (Reuters) - British drugs giant Glaxo Holdings Plc. said yesterday chairman Sir Paul Girolami would step down at the end of June, prompting talk it may be near a multibillion-dollar acquisition in the US.

Glaxo sought to dampen the speculation, saying there was no change of strategy, but left the door open for such a move.

The firm said Girolami - who joined Glaxo in 1966, since when it has become one of the world's top drug companies - will complete transfer of his executive responsibilities on June 30. Between then and November 18, when Glaxo holds its annual meeting, he will continue as chair in a non-executive capacity. Glaxo said it would announce Girolami's successor in due course.

"The point of Girolami's departure, which was sooner than expected, is that a big deal is very much on the cards now at Glaxo. That is a deal that his mind can accept but his heart can't," said one drugs analyst at a major investment bank.

Analysts said the departure of Girolami, who favored organic growth over acquisitions - before a successor was found supported the theory that a big deal was near.

"He doesn't want to be sitting in the executive chair when an acquisition is announced. Such a thing would go against a lot of what he said over the years about organic growth being the way forward," another analyst commented.

Glaxo shares rose 16 pence to 578 pence, helped by the view that Girolami's departure would free company management to use its growing cash resources.

In May, US analysts tipped Glaxo - maker of the world's biggest selling prescription drug, ulcer treatment Zantac - as the most likely candidate to take over US health care group McKesson Corp.

Though many British analysts doubt Glaxo will buy all of McKesson, whose PCS Health Systems is the third largest pharmaceutical benefit manager in the US, some deal is seen as inevitable if Glaxo is to keep up in the lucrative US market.

Glaxo denied that Girolami's departure heralded a new corporate strategy or that it was on the point of announcing a major US acquisition. A spokesman confirmed, however, it was still looking closely at US health care.

Glaxo said it had been in discussions with various US health care companies but that no decisions had been made.

WORLD BRIEFS

Justice Dept. agrees to British Telecommunications/MCI deal: The US Justice Department announced yesterday it has reached an agreement allowing British Telecommunications PLC to proceed with its plan to purchase a 20 percent stake in MCI Communications Corp. *Reuters*

IBM producing super-sensitive disk drive recording head: International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) said yesterday it had designed a revolutionary disk drive recording head that enabled computer systems to store far more data than was now possible.

In a hard-disk drive, a recording head writes data onto a disk as well as reading it back. IBM's new "spin-valve" head uses a magnetic field, which is more sensitive than the commonly used electrically induced current, for these functions.

The new sensor is already five times more sensitive than today's best commercially available disk-drive sensor, and IBM is working to boost the capacity to 20 times by the year 2000, it said. *Reuters*

Germany acts against insider trading: After years of debate, Germany finally took steps yesterday to arm itself against insider dealings in publicly traded securities.

Parliament's finance committee approved a bill that will require companies to disclose all information that might affect the price of their stocks and bonds. It also establishes an oversight body for the securities industry and makes insider trading punishable by up to five years in prison.

The government hopes greater disclosure and supervision in the securities industry will help encourage an influx of foreign capital, badly needed for the reconstruction of east Germany.

World airlines hoping for turnaround in '94: World airlines, reeling from four consecutive years of loss, may be heading for a small profit on their foreign passenger operations in 1994, the International Air Transport Association reported yesterday.

Tom Murphy, IATA's senior director for financial services, said an increase in passenger traffic and a slowdown in growth of airline fleets suggested profit on international services for the year could reach \$1 billion.

"The signs are very encouraging," Murphy told reporters at an IATA news briefing. Traffic was up by eight per cent over the first four months of 1994, but the increase of seat availability through new planes coming on line was only five per cent. *Reuters*

EU Commission set to clear Procter & Gamble purchase: The European Commission is expected to clear plans by Procter & Gamble Co to buy German hygiene products firm VP-Schickedanz AG following changes in the deal making it compatible with competition rules.

A senior Commission official told Reuters that Competition Commissioner Karel Van Miert was recommending to his fellow commissioners yesterday that the operation be allowed to go through.

"The likely outcome is that the Commission is now going to approve the deal," he said. *Reuters*

Countrywide Credit's earnings drop 22%: Countrywide Credit Industries Inc., the largest US residential mortgage lender, yesterday reported a 22% plunge in earnings for the latest quarter, saying profits were hurt by a rise in interest rates.

For its fiscal first quarter ended May 31, the company said it earned \$33.7 million, or 37 cents a share, down from profits of \$43.3m., or 49 cents a share, a year earlier.

The Pasadena-based firm said its profits shrank despite a rise in revenues to \$177.1m. from \$166.7m. *Reuters*

National Freight's shares off sharply: Britain's largest transport group, NFC Plc, reported a steep fall in first half profit yesterday, disappointing investors who pushed the shares down sharply.

NFC, formerly the state-owned National Freight Corporation, made pre-tax profits of £49.0 million pounds in the six months to mid-April, down from £86.6m. pounds last time.

Ignoring exceptional gains last year, underlying profits rose 30 percent to £48.8m.

The group also lifted turnover, 5.3% percent to £1.02 billion in patchy recovery, but not enough to satisfy the market.

NFC's shares fell 16 pence to £2.04 on the London Stock Exchange. *Reuters*

Chartists say Nikkei ready to forge ahead

Japan economy recovery apparent

TOKYO (Reuters) - The Tokyo stock market, having broken free from its shackles after a brief corrective hiccup, is set to rally towards loftier heights, chartists in Tokyo and London say.

But they differ by about 5,000 points on what they see as the longer-term range of the Nikkei average's upward assault.

"I think by July the market will go up to 22,000-23,000, and my final target for this year is 25,000," said Yuichi Matsushita, of Nikko Securities Co. Ltd. in Tokyo.

Yesterday the Nikkei ended off 71.01 points or 0.33 percent to 21,282.96, down for the second straight day.

The Tokyo stock market has been heaving on a perception that economic recovery is finally under way, underlined by hopes of a turnaround in 1994/95 corporate earnings.

Tokyo traders are eyeing around 22,500 as a key resistance level.

The main external factors cur-

rently dogging market sentiment are the appreciation of the yen against the dollar - which hurts Japan's export-oriented companies - and the brouhaha surrounding the North Korean nuclear issue.

But Matsushita said he would still be optimistic even if the yen appreciated further. He doubted if a higher yen would drastically eat into exporters' profits.

"Export-related companies are now trying to adapt themselves to the age of the higher yen. Internally, people have probably prepared for 90-95 yen to the dollar," he said. The dollar closed in Tokyo yesterday at 103.03 yen.

Martin Jones, technical analyst at BNP Securities in London, said the Nikkei broke its downtrend in early 1993 and has consolidated since. He said the new surge signaled further gains to around 24,000.

Jones highlighted a triangular

pattern formed by rising lows from the trough of 16,000 last December and a succession of peaks around 20,000.

He said that now the Nikkei had escaped the formation, its movement could be projected to an upside target of 24,000.

"Longer term, the index has based out and broken two-year highs. I would look for 28,000 on an eight to 12-month view," Jones said.

Nikko's Matsushita said 27,000 was a big resistance line, but added: "Once 25,000 is cleared, I think there's very small resistance between 25,000 and 27,000."

David Sneddon, technical analyst at Investment Research in Cambridge, said there had been a conclusive breakout above various levels of resistance around 21,000.

"We could come back a little (in the) short term as things get overbought, but the uptrend will

remain and extend to 23,000 or further. Depending on the size of that correction, we could then see a stronger rally later in the year as high as 27,000," Sneddon said.

Robin Griffiths, of James Capel in London, said a new support low above the resistance point of around 21,000 would signal a powerful run to higher levels.

He said his target of 23,000 could be hit.

"We still see no reason for a euphoric runaway move in the market. The ingredients for a powerful bull do not come into place until much nearer the year end," he said.

Despite a halt in the past two days in the Nikkei's rally, few say there is much downside risk to the market.

"If the market can confirm the bottom at 21,000, or at the technical support level of 20,700 (the 25-day moving average), it can then press ahead," said Yasuyuki Shimizu, of Kokusai Securities Co. Ltd. in Tokyo.

Rangers win Stanley Cup to end 54-year curse



NEW YORK (AP) — The "curse" is finally over.

In 60 minutes Tuesday night, the New York Rangers ended 54 years of frustration with an emotional 3-2 victory over the Vancouver Canucks in the decisive seventh game of the Stanley Cup finals.

"We're going to celebrate this like we've never celebrated anything in our lives," captain Mark Messier said after the Rangers won their first Cup since 1940. "Once you get a taste of the Cup, you never want to lose it."

Kevin Lowe, a teammate of Messier's on five Stanley Cup teams in Edmonton and now one in New York, thought it was just the start of many more for the Rangers.

But for the moment, one is more than enough.

With their Madison Square Garden victory, the Rangers ended the longest streak in NHL history. So much had been made of the yearly failures that the Rangers were said to be cursed and became fodder for jokes.

No more. "Now the Rangers organization has a Stanley Cup," Lowe said. "Now Brian Leetch, who was the Stanley Cup MVP, has a Stanley Cup, now he's experienced. Now Mike Richter is experienced. Now Alex (Kovalev) is experienced."

"Now these guys can carry the torch. These guys can get the machine going and hopefully turn out more."

This was all supposed to happen for the Cup-starved Rangers fans in Game 5 in New York when they came to the Garden, only to have the Canucks rain on their parade. With a 3-1 lead in the best-of-7 series, the Rangers were only one game away from the Cup.

But the Canucks, who only had the 14th-best record among playoff teams compared to New York's top mark, had different plans.

They sent the series back to Vancouver for a Game 6, which they also won to set the stage for Tuesday night's deciding game.

In keeping with the Rangers' close calls in this year's playoffs, it was still in doubt until the final buzzer. In previous games, the Rangers had lost three leads in the last minute — two to the New Jersey Devils in the Eastern Conference finals and one to the Canucks in the opener of the championship round.

"I tried to be pretty relaxed up to that point," Rangers coach Mike Keenan said, "but when the guys jumped on the ice when they called icing with 1.6 seconds left, I nearly snapped."

"I thought they might call a penalty (for too many men). We just had too many close calls — teams scoring against us in the last minute — so I felt a little bit antsy and then relieved when it was finally over."

Canucks general manager-coach Pat Quinn felt something else. "Having a series like this, it tears your guts out to lose," he said.

True, his Canucks had given the Rangers all they could handle. As the best team in the league during the regular season, the Rangers had come into the playoffs the favorites.

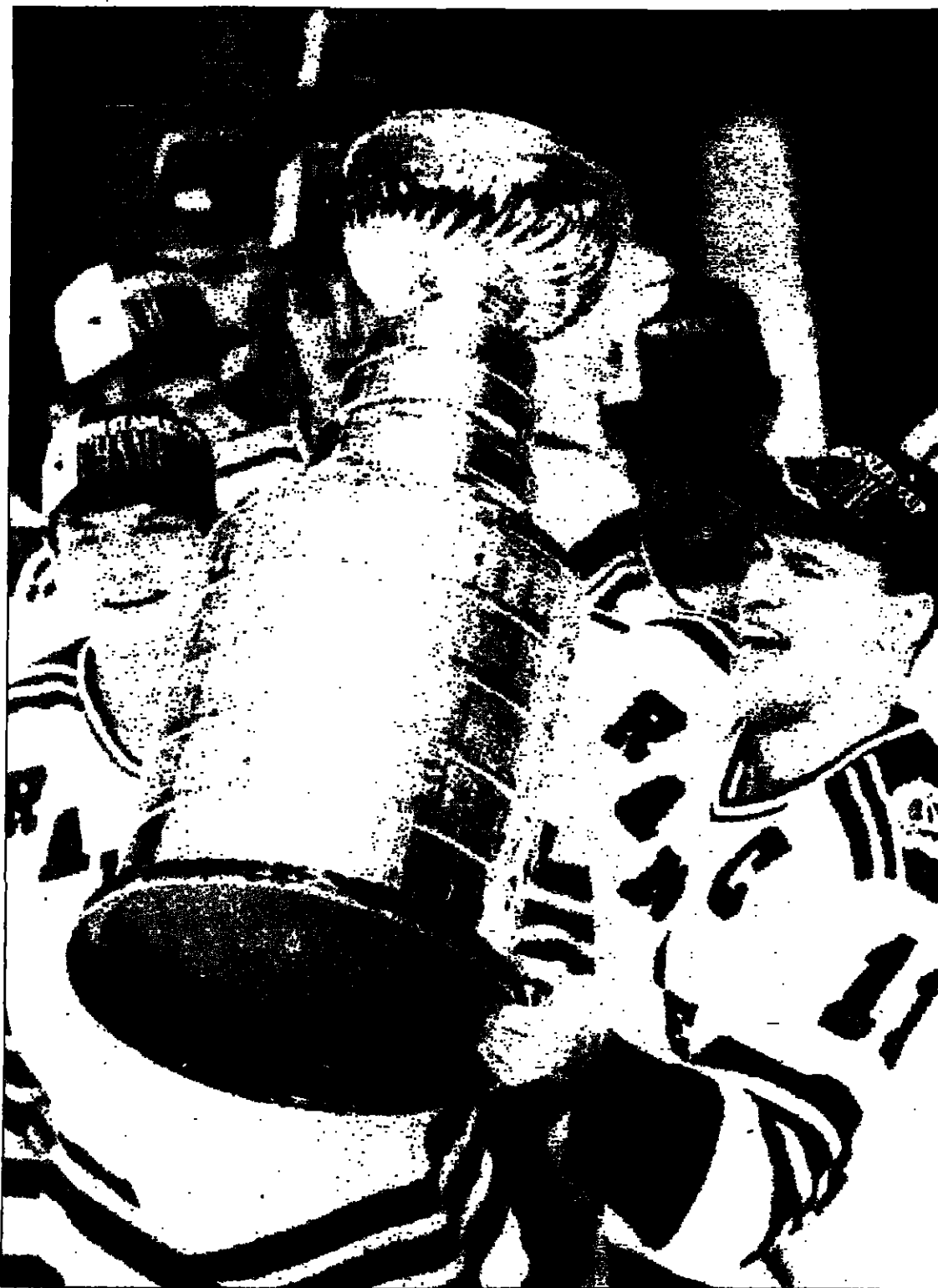
They looked the part, sweeping the New York Islanders in four games and then beating Washington in five before an excruciating seven-game series against New Jersey, which went down to overtime in Game 7.

The Canucks, meanwhile, had had a mediocre season before becoming the "Comeback Kids" of the playoffs. Down 3-1 to Calgary, they battled back to win three straight overtime games. Then they knocked off Dallas and Toronto to advance to the finals.

"Those who have seen us knew we had a pretty good hockey club," Quinn said, "and did underachievement during the regular season. If we did play to our capabilities, we were capable of doing exactly what we did."

Naturally, the Rangers didn't make things easy on themselves. They twice had two-goal leads — 2-0 in the first period and 3-1 in the second — and left things in doubt right to the very end.

"It was definitely a big bonus to get the first goal," Rangers defenseman Jay Wells said of



HOW SWEET IT IS — New York captain Mark Messier holds up the Stanley Cup, ending a more-than-half-century Rangers' jinx.

Leetch's score from the left circle at 11:02.

It was even bigger when Adam Graves scored from the slot at 14:45 to give the Rangers a 2-0 lead after the first period, the first time they had led by as many as two goals after the first 20 minutes in the finals.

When Trevor Linden scored a breakaway shorthanded goal for the Canucks at 5:21 of the second period, the Rangers didn't lose their composure, as they had in earlier games against Vancouver.

This time, Messier made it 3-1 Rangers with a power-play goal at 13:29 during a scramble in front of the net.

"The big goal was Messier's," Linden said. "If we get the penalty killed there, it's still 2-1."

It was far from over, though. Linden scored at 4:50 of the third period to make it 3-2 and the Canucks stormed the net in the final six minutes to make things interesting. On one sequence, Nathan Lafayette hit the post.

"We were within a goal of tying it," Linden said. "I felt absolutely confident we could win."

But not the way Ranger goaltender Mike Richter was playing. He made some great stops at the end to shut the door on the upstart Canucks.

"At that point, the team had played well in front of me," said Richter, who made 28 saves to outduel Vancouver goalie Kirk McLean. "I felt stronger as the game progressed."

And so the Rangers got to carry the Cup around the ice — every Ranger from Conn Smythe winner Leetch to Jay Wells, one of the team's overshadowed

"I had no idea what to do with it," Wells said of holding the Cup for the first time. "All I was trying to do was not to drop it, not to trip on the wires."

"It's been 15 years that I've seen the Cup in pictures, but I've never touched it, never even come close to it."

That streak is now over — to say nothing of the other one that had grown to mythic proportions before the demons were finally exorcised.

Stanley Cup Champions

- 1918 — Toronto Arenas
- 1919 — No Decision
- 1920 — Ottawa Senators
- 1921 — Ottawa Senators
- 1922 — Toronto St. Patricks
- 1923 — Ottawa Senators
- 1924 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1925 — Victoria Cougars
- 1926 — Montreal Maroons
- 1927 — Ottawa Senators
- 1928 — New York Rangers
- 1929 — Boston Bruins
- 1930 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1931 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1932 — Toronto Maple Leafs
- 1933 — New York Rangers
- 1934 — Chicago Blackhawks
- 1935 — Montreal Maroons
- 1936 — Detroit Red Wings
- 1937 — Detroit Red Wings
- 1938 — Chicago Blackhawks
- 1939 — Boston Bruins
- 1940 — New York Rangers
- 1941 — Boston Bruins
- 1942 — Toronto Maple Leafs
- 1943 — Detroit Red Wings
- 1944 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1945 — Toronto Maple Leafs
- 1946 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1947 — Toronto Maple Leafs
- 1948 — Toronto Maple Leafs
- 1949 — Toronto Maple Leafs
- 1950 — Detroit Red Wings
- 1951 — Toronto Maple Leafs
- 1952 — Detroit Red Wings
- 1953 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1954 — Detroit Red Wings
- 1955 — Detroit Red Wings
- 1956 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1957 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1958 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1959 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1960 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1961 — Chicago Blackhawks
- 1962 — Toronto Maple Leafs
- 1963 — Toronto Maple Leafs
- 1964 — Toronto Maple Leafs
- 1965 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1966 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1967 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1968 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1969 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1970 — Boston Bruins
- 1971 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1972 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1973 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1974 — Philadelphia Flyers
- 1975 — Philadelphia Flyers
- 1976 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1977 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1978 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1979 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1980 — New York Islanders
- 1981 — New York Islanders
- 1982 — New York Islanders
- 1983 — New York Islanders
- 1984 — Edmonton Oilers
- 1985 — Edmonton Oilers
- 1986 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1987 — Edmonton Oilers
- 1988 — Edmonton Oilers
- 1989 — Calgary Flames
- 1990 — Edmonton Oilers
- 1991 — Pittsburgh Penguins
- 1992 — Pittsburgh Penguins
- 1993 — Montreal Canadiens
- 1994 — New York Rangers

Olajuwon 1-on-1 with Letterman

NEW YORK (AP) — Hakeem Olajuwon, the NBA's most valuable player and a high-ranking member of New York City's public enemy list these days, played his toughest Manhattan crowd yet Monday night.

Olajuwon, whose Houston Rockets led the New York Knicks 2-1 before this morning's scheduled Game 4 at Madison Square Garden, was a guest on "Late Night with David Letterman."

The center rebounded from a hearty dose of Letterman's trademark jibes and showed his own sense of humor.

When Letterman asked about his parents, who flew to the US from Nigeria to see him play for the first time during the finals, Olajuwon said he had been sending them videotapes of games, but only those his team won.

"My father thinks I've been the most valuable player for a long time," joked Olajuwon, a 10-year veteran who claimed his first MVP award this season.

Olajuwon, who played for the University of Houston, said he came to New York just after arriving from Nigeria and before selecting a college.

"I was supposed to go to St. John's, but it was too cold," he said.

Olajuwon said he "wasn't too comfortable" with the Rockets' lead, but added "it kind of relieves the pressure knowing that at least we will get to go back to Houston."

Games 6 and 7, if needed, will be at The Summit in Houston.

In Tuesday's paper, we erroneously printed that Game 4 of the NBA Final had been scheduled for 4:00 yesterday morning. We sincerely regret the error and apologize to all those who were inconvenienced.

Geri in lead after 2nd round

OREN Geri leads the pack after the second round of the Sam Sharov Memorial Golf Tournament.

Geri's score is 158 (77, 81), followed by Cyril Kaufman (159 (79, 80)), Martin Cooper (160 (84, 76)) and Per Lund (160 (79, 81)).

The third round will be played today.

SCOREBOARD

RUGBY UNION — France, snarling from Sunday's defeat at the hands of North Harbour, landed on an eight-try trail to the second division Wairarapa-Bush side, 53-9, to notch a second victory in the third match of their New Zealand tour in Masterton.

TENNIS — Halle, 2nd round results: Henri Leconte def. Alexander Volkov (7), 6-4, 6-1; Michael Stich (1) def. Henrik Holm, 6-3, 6-4; Wally Masur def. Marc Rosset (5), 7-5, 7-5; Jakob Hlasek def. Cedric Pietrangeli, 6-3, 6-1.

The Sports Pages are edited by Joe Hoffman

Evidence mounts against O.J. US agape at Brazilian media frenzy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's lawyer withdrew from the case yesterday as investigators were said to be closing in on the former football great for the slayings of his second ex-wife and a waiter.

Attorney Howard Weitzman said, "Because of my personal relationship with him, I can no longer give him the attention he deserves. Robert Shapiro will take over the primary responsibilities for representing O.J."

Nicole Simpson, 35, lived in a Brentwood condominium two miles from her former husband's mansion. Her body and that of 25-year-old Ronald Lyle Goldman, a waiter at a restaurant nearby, were found outside her condo about 12:10 a.m. Monday. She and Simpson divorced in 1992.

The 46-year-old Simpson has denied any involvement in the slayings.

Ms. Simpson's throat was slashed, and Goldman's wounds indicate he put up a fierce struggle before he died, investigators said. Simpson had scratches on his body when police questioned him Monday, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Authorities withheld other details, including an estimated time of death, but Weitzman said police

believe the killings occurred about 11 p.m. Sunday.

Simpson left Los Angeles Sunday on an 11:45 p.m. flight to Chicago, where he had a business meeting, Weitzman said. The airport is about a 20-minute drive from Simpson's home.

Weitzman confirmed that a bloody towel was found in Simpson's room at the O'Hare Plaza Hotel in Chicago, where Simpson had checked in hours after the killing.

Before he left the case, Weitzman said the only scratches he knew of on Simpson's body were on his hand. Simpson slammed his hand down on a broken glass when he learned of his ex-wife's death, the lawyer said.

Police found a trail of small reddish-brown stains leading up Simpson's driveway. The Times said the drops had been determined to be blood.

Investigators also removed bloodstained patches of carpet from Simpson's Ford Bronco.

A bloody glove found inside Simpson's house matched a glove found at the scene of the crime, the Times and the Daily News reported.

Friends said Simpson and his former wife had been considering a reconciliation, but the Times

quoted an unidentified source as saying Ms. Simpson told him several weeks ago that they could never get back together.

Police had been called to her townhouse several times in recent months to deal with disputes between the two, the source said.

Meanwhile, a therapist, Susan Forward, who met twice with Ms. Simpson during her divorce, said that the former athlete had beaten and stalked his wife.

Forward said that Simpson beat his wife during their seven-year marriage — punching, kicking and severely bruising her — and stalked her after the divorce.

"He said, 'If you ever try to leave me, I'll kill you.' He would follow her to restaurants and bars and make scenes and threaten to kill her," said Forward, author of *Men Who Hate Women and the Women Who Love Them*.

Police said Ms. Simpson and Goldman were not linked romantically, and their relationship did not appear to be at the heart of the slayings, the Times said. Friends said Goldman was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Ms. Simpson had left her glasses at the restaurant after dining there Sunday night, and Goldman went after her, volunteering to return them.



other when a fight breaks out and disgruntled stars cursing their coach when they are substituted during a game.

In Brazil, players are interviewed as they warm up on the pitch before a game, as they come off at halftime and even when they are taking a shower afterwards.

Reporters stand behind the goal and at the slightest sign of trouble run on to the pitch to register the drama.

But the methods of the Brazilian media, and the radio reporters especially, have led to confusion and chaos in the US, where around 400 Brazilian journalists are covering the fortunes of their team in the World Cup.

US authorities may be well prepared for earthquakes and other calamities. But they have so far proved incapable of meeting the demands of the Brazilian media, who have left in their wake a trail of shattered press officers.

The spokesman at last week's Brazil-Honduras game in San Diego apologized for the behavior of Brazilian radio reporters after plans for a post-match briefing were wrecked.

Organizers had set up a podium for interviewees and arranged neat rows of seats for reporters. It was to be the usual routine — one question at a time.

But as soon as Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira

SAN JOSE (Reuter) — When a player is injured during a soccer match in Brazil, the first person to reach him is often a radio reporter who shoves a microphone

in his face and broadcasts his grunts and groans live on the air.

Listeners can also savor players swearing and shouting at each other when a fight breaks out and disgruntled stars cursing their coach when they are substituted during a game.

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But as soon as Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira

appeared, dozens of radio reporters barged to the front, thrust cellular phones and tape recorders in front of him and asked questions all at the same time.

American journalists sat in their seats shaking their heads.

The Brazilians were then told after Sunday's game with El Salvador they would be allowed to interview players by the dressing room. But fighting broke out when security guards refused to allow journalists near the players.

Reporters and security staff exchanged punches and kicks, some people had shirts torn and other journalists hurled and American abuse at guards in the ensuing melee.

A dozen police officers then forced their way through and formed a cordon around the dressing room door.

"This is the sort of violent, brutal police you expect in Brazil," said Marcio Guedes of *O Dia*, a Rio de Janeiro daily.

Reporters say they accept they will not be given as much freedom during the World Cup as they get back home — but they insist on the sacred post-match grilling of players.

"In Brazil, I have interviewed players as they celebrate goals and goalkeepers as they organize the wall at a free kick," said Deni Menezes of *Radio Globo*. "The players are used to it and I have a good relationship with them."

Wanderley Rizzo of *Radio Jovem Panam* added: "Yes, I admit we are aggressive. But we have to be. We are live and the Brazilian people want to hear what the players are thinking."

Reporters insist they are giving the Brazilian public what they want and help divert attention from the country's economic woes.

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TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS: Minnesota 5, Boston 4; Cleveland 7, Toronto 5; California 1, Kansas City 0; New York 4, Baltimore 3; Oakland 5, Chicago 2; Detroit 10, Milwaukee 8 (13); Seattle 7, Texas 6 (13).

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS: Houston 7, San Francisco 4; Philadelphia 3, New York 2; Atlanta 3, Colorado 1; Montreal 12, Pittsburgh 7; Florida 7, St. Louis 0; Los Angeles 5, Cincinnati 2; Chicago 7, San Diego 6 (11).

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Staff, supply shortages force Clalit hospitals to reduced schedule

JUDY SIEGEL

ALL of Kupat Holim Clalit's 15 hospitals will be on a reduced Shabbat schedule starting this morning, due to shortages of supplies and staff caused by the strike by 6,000 clerical and maintenance workers that began yesterday.

Outpatient clinics will be closed and all non-emergency surgery will be canceled. However, all the 1,300 community health fund clinics are to function normally.

Finance Ministry negotiators and representatives of the union and the health fund made no progress yesterday in resolving the dispute.

Union chief Haim Baranes said the staffers are fighting for a 25% salary increase promised them on

May 1 by Clalit and Histadrut officials, but not approved by Treasury wage chief Shalom Granit. Baranes asserted that all other health workers, including doctors, nurses and paramedical workers, received hefty increases. However, he added, the low-paid maintenance workers and clerks were the last to complete negotiations, and due to Clalit's financial crisis, the Treasury vetoed the hikes.

The health fund's 1,300 clinics were barely affected by the strike yesterday, as doctors, nurses and paramedical workers functioned normally. However, since clinic administrative offices were closed, clerks did not collect special fees from patients. "The patients in the

clinics were very pleased by this," said Clalit spokesman David Tagar.

However, in the health fund's 15 hospitals, families had to deliver food from the kitchens to patients, and little cleaning was done. Nurses dug into the emergency supplies for clean laundry.

Tagar said that in a few days, emergency supplies would run out.

The Finance Ministry spokesman yesterday declared that the union's demands were baseless and irresponsible. "An official committee had approved a 17 percent increase in the wages of government clerks and maintenance workers so that they would be

equalized with those of their counterparts in Clalit. Now the Clalit union wants to restore the gap between them to their advantage."

"The Clalit workers have already received a 20 percent increase for 1994," said the spokesman.

Granit said that acceding to the union's demands would set off a spiral of demands from other sectors and significantly raise the cost of medical care even further.

"The strike will endanger Kupat Holim Clalit and scare members away, which will only hurt the workers themselves. We recognize that the employees work hard, but they have already received their wage increases."

Teachers union won't try five-day week experiment

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Histadrut Teachers Union said yesterday it would no longer participate in an experiment in which a five-day week was conducted in elementary schools in different parts of the country.

"The experiment was a disaster. The proper conditions had not been prepared and the children were out on the streets on Fridays. It was a mess," a union spokeswoman said.

Education Ministry Director-General Shimshon Shoshani last night expressed astonishment at the announcement, saying that the union was not empowered to overturn government decisions.

"The ministry did not ask for the union's permission to begin the five-day week," Shoshani said in a letter to Avraham Ben-Shabat, the union's secretary-general.

"The union signed an agreement and it is not acceptable practice to cancel work arrangements in such a unilateral manner." But Shoshani pointed out that the ministry had earlier announced that the experiment had come to an end, and that every local council was free to decide for itself if it wished to continue the program. He said the ministry would provide assistance to those local authorities interested in doing so.

The change to a five-day week was implemented at the beginning of the school year in some dozen localities. It was agreed at the time that the program would be examined by experts and that the ministry would provide assistance and

funds for developing informal activities on Fridays.

"In Nesher, for example, there were 1,000 children in the streets on Fridays. Nobody was home to take care of them and there were no extra-curricular activities," union spokeswoman Kinneret Katz said.

"It was a teacher's nightmare. The children, who stayed [in school] until 3 [Sunday through Thursday] were restless in the afternoons without air conditioning and without proper meals," she added. "Even worse, there was no preparation for how to handle the extra hours and the classes continued to be frontal."

"The year is over and the unity executive took a unanimous vote not to continue. When the economy goes over to a five-day week, the schools will join them."

Arab local council heads call for resuming strike

DAVID RUDGE

SEVERAL Arab local council heads are calling for a resumption of the strike which shut down municipal services in Arab towns and villages for over three weeks.

The strike was called off earlier this month after the council heads, in a relatively narrow vote, decided to accept a Treasury and Interior Ministry offer of increased funding.

Since then, however, the councils have not received any of the money promised to help overcome immediate financial problems and cover outstanding debts, council heads said.

"More than 10 councils have not paid their employees for as long as six months. They are bankrupt and without immediate financial aid they cannot provide even minimal services," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads.

He said municipal employees in Ba'eneh village, near Karmiel, had declared a strike over non-payment of their salaries for six months and services to the 5,000 residents were at a standstill.

"We ended our strike 12 days ago on the basis of promises that were made including the pledge that money would be forwarded to the councils in dire financial straits. This has not happened," said Suleiman, who is also head of Mashhad local council in the Galilee.

An emergency meeting is to be held by the council leaders in Shfaram today to decide the next course of action.

"I hope the Interior Ministry will respond to the dire need of the impoverished councils and there won't be any need to renew the strike, with the attendant suffering to the community," Suleiman said.



President Ezer Weizman's granddaughter blows out a candle on a cake he received at a surprise 70th birthday party at the Sde Dov Air Force Base yesterday. Chief of General Staff Ehud Barak and Air Force Commander Herzl Bodinger look on. (Air Force Journal)

Labor, Ram still at odds in Histadrut coalition talks

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE crisis in the Histadrut coalition talks between Labor and Ram deepened yesterday when Ram announced that it will meet tomorrow to decide whether to open negotiations with the Likud.

The announcement followed the Tel Aviv labor council convention's approval of the coalition agreement made between Labor and the Likud.

In fact, both Ram and Labor have already begun unofficial talks with the Histadrut's Likud faction leaders, probing the possibility of forming a coalition. Likud Histadrut faction head MK Ya'akov Shamai denied yesterday that he had been approached by anyone from Ram.

At yesterday's meeting of Ram

leaders, there appeared to be a general consensus for forming a coalition with the Likud, Ram sources said, despite Mapam and the Citizens Rights Movement's executives' former objections. Mapam and the CRM's councils are to meet today to form their position on this issue.

The conflict between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and outgoing Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld was aggravated yesterday when Haberfeld gave his blessing to the Tel Aviv labor council's agreement with the Likud, despite Rabin's instructions to cancel the agreements with the Likud in the labor councils.

Speaking at a meeting of Labor's Histadrut faction leaders, Haberfeld said that there is no connection between the Histadrut coalition agreement and those made by the various local labor councils.

Haberfeld said Rabin's threat to appoint a receiver for Kupat Holim unless the Histadrut convention meets by the end of the month is an empty threat and a mere attempt to pressure the faction.

Commenting on Ramon's ultimatum, Haberfeld said that "Ramon is leading us astray and mocking Rabin as well. We can also make an agreement with the Likud and form a block which would prevent any decision requiring two-thirds of the votes of the Histadrut institutions."

A frustrated Peter Gabriel arrives

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

A CONCERT meant to celebrate Arab-Israeli reconciliation seems to be highlighting the tensions that remain between Israel and Egypt instead.

"I'm very frustrated," said rock star Peter Gabriel upon his arrival in Tel Aviv yesterday, after he was "shocked" to learn that opposition by Egyptian officials may scuttle his "Music and Nature Without Borders" concert, scheduled to take place in Taba on Saturday night.

According to impresario Zev Eizik, trucks carrying the equipment for the show have been sitting at the Taba border for two days, and have not been permitted to unload their equipment because "there are some people with considerable influence who are unhappy about the concert."

Earlier in the day, he said, the

obstacles to the show were believed to be purely bureaucratic. But as time wore on, Eizik said, it became clear that the opposition was "political in nature."

In addition to Gabriel, singer Lou Reed and performers from Morocco and Nigeria are scheduled to perform in the show, which was to be attended by Israelis, Egyptians, and, according to Eizik, Jordanians and Saudis as well.

An additional show is scheduled to take place Sunday night in Hayaron Park.

Eizik said last night that it was possible a show would be performed at an alternative site in Eilat, and that everything would be done to encourage Arab ticket-holders to attend.

But Gabriel said he very much

wanted to perform in an Arab state in addition to playing in Israel, and mentioned the possibility of performing in Cairo or even Jericho.

"It was important to me when I agreed to come here, that I do something to make the Arab audience feel like a part of what is happening," he said.

Gabriel, who has been active in such organizations as Amnesty International said that he would not have agreed to perform in Israel before the accord with the PLO.

Before boarding a plane from Tel Aviv to Eilat yesterday, he said that if necessary, he would personally plead his case before Egyptian officials.

"This concert comes from good intentions and I don't see how it could be a harmful event," the singer said.

Fraud scam suspect almost freed by accident

RAINE MARCUS

A MAN suspected of being the central figure in a NIS 15 million fraud scam was nearly released from custody by Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday, after he appeared before it on other charges under a different name.

Efi Peri, 37, also known as Haim Ifergan, was released on bail by Judge Yehudit Amsterdam, after being arrested for failing to answer a subpoena.

But fraud squad detectives investigating a scam involving a gang who allegedly swindled factories and suppliers out of millions

of shekels, managed to locate Peri/Ifergan just before he left Abu Kabir, where he had been detained. His initial hearing on the fraud charges was postponed until today.

Peri/Ifergan allegedly headed a gang who set up straw companies and then bought vast quantities of cosmetics, cleaning materials, electrical goods and other items using bad checks.

Police suspect that the gang bribed bank managers who alleg-

edly provided factories with false details of the gang members' bank accounts, so they would be granted credit. Several managers have been questioned and released on bail, police said.

Three other suspects, including the owner of the Shirle trading company, who are suspected of financing the operations were arrested 10 days ago and later released. Police said more arrests are imminent.

Peri/Ifergan allegedly began the scam in 1988, and together with others formed some 10 straw firms.

Man held for apartment sale scam

RAINE MARCUS

A MAN suspected of posing as an apartment owner and selling property that did not belong to him was remanded for a week in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

Yosef Weiner was arrested after being identified by two lawyers whom he allegedly employed to complete apartment deals.

Another suspect, whose name was barred from publication pending a line-up, was arrested by fraud squad detectives last week with clients' checks, forged contracts and identity cards in his possession.

Police allege that the man, Weiner, and an additional two suspects still at large sold two apartments to unsuspecting clients without the owners' knowledge.

KNESSET BRIEFS

No voting on non-Jewish holidays

Important Knesset votes, including no-confidence votes and the election of MKs to Knesset committees, will not be held on Moslem, Christian or Druse holidays, according to a House committee decision. The committee will also decide on which holy days of the minority religions the Knesset will be closed.

Inquiry to examine Kupat Holim crisis

The Knesset agreed to establish a parliamentary committee of inquiry into the financial crisis in Kupat Holim Clalit. The proposal was submitted by Silvan Shalom (Likud), who now has a month to draw up the guidelines for the committee's investigation and propose a chairman.

Tougher sentences for child pornographers

Anyone producing or trafficking in child pornography will be liable to a jail sentence of five years, according to a bill initiated by Esther Salmowitz which was approved in preliminary reading. Dan Izenberg

Singles to get 5% of Housing Ministry's Sderot flats

EVELYN GORDON

THE Housing Ministry has decided to reserve 5% of its remaining apartments in Sderot for singles, following a petition to the High Court of Justice against its ban on unmarried buyers.

The petition was filed by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) on behalf of 30-year-old Sderot resident Charlie Elbaz, who had been denied the right to

purchase one of the ministry's apartments even though he is eligible for financial assistance.

The ministry said its first priority was to provide housing for fam-

ilies and that therefore it was not allocating any apartments to singles.

Elbaz and ACRI therefore petitioned the court, claiming this was unjust discrimination on the basis of marital status.

Court rejects driver's appeal of negligent homicide conviction

THE Tel Aviv District Court yesterday rejected the appeal by a man convicted by a lower court of negligent homicide in a 1991 car accident in which a father and two children were burned to death and another child died of smoke inhalation.

The accident occurred near the Ben-Gurion Airport interchange on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, where Yoram Ben-Ari was driving a truck carrying two racing cars. His was the last in a line of several vehicles.

The prosecution had claimed that Ben-Ari did not keep adequate distance from the car in front of him and was traveling too fast. As a result, he hit the car and

crushed its gas tank, causing gasoline to spill on the road.

A spark caused the gasoline to ignite, and the resulting fire killed the man and the three children. The driver of the car and two other passengers were seriously injured.

Ben-Ari was sentenced to a year in prison, a 20-year suspension of his driver's license, and a NIS 20,000 fine.

He appealed, but the judges agreed with the Magistrates Court judge that Ben-Ari had driven irresponsibly given road and traffic conditions. The court did, however, cut the fine in half to NIS 10,000, and declare that in five years, Ben-Ari could drive a motorcycle and a tractor. (Itim)

Oldest Beduin leader here dies at 104

THE oldest Beduin leader in Israel died this week at the age of 104.

Sheikh Hammad Abu Taha was known as the first Beduin leader from the Negev to make the pilgrimage to Mecca many years ago, riding on a camel.

The sheikh left four generations of descendants, numbering in the hundreds. (Itim)

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, seven of hearts, queen of diamonds and seven of clubs.

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